

THE POSITION OF CENTRAL EUROPEAN COUNTRIES TOWARDS THE THREE SEAS INITIATIVE

Abstract: The establishment of the Three Seas Initiative (TSI) in 2016 initiated the integration processes around the concept of building a new geopolitical entity in Central Europe. The TSI itself was created as a result of a reaction from a group of countries belonging to the European Union to the increased threat from the Russian Federation after its attack on Ukraine and the annexation of Crimea. The countries of the region not only noticed the growing threat to military security, but also the growing energy dependence (Gazprom) on the Russian Federation. The whole concept of the TSI for the region's energy independence from the region met with a negative reaction from other EU countries (mainly France and Germany) and the Russian Federation itself. Gradually, the United States began to be positive about the Initiative. Apart from TSI countries, the very concept based on transport, IT and energy investments has met with the interest of other EU countries and countries outside the Community, for which it creates many new development opportunities.

Keywords: Three Seas Initiative, Central and Eastern Europe, European Union, United States, international security.

JEL codes: F52, F53, O19