PIOTR RAKOWSKI¹

Artur Gruszcza, *Europejska wspólnota wywiadowcza. Prawo – instytucje – mechanizmy* [European Intelligence Community. Law – Institutions – Mechanisms], Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Jagiellońskiego, Kraków 2014, pp. 310

Artur Gruszcza specializes for years in the area of internal security and aspects of practical cooperation. However, his *European intelligence community* provides, for the first time, a broad and compelling study of the role of the European Union (EU) and in particular its agencies and bodies within the broad spectrum of the internal security, and in particular in intelligence sharing. Especially through this great deal of emphasis for intelligence exchange between different actors, the author concentrates his interests only at non-military elements of the security agenda but he also does not refrain from the intersection of military ones as well. Consequently, he goes beyond the “standard” analysis of legal and political evaluation and tries to empower his reflections with hard but ambitious approach: what is really behind the aforementioned term.

The book links the challenges of governing European security and practical (but effective) cooperation) to the changing nature of the state, examines the evolutionary expansion of the security agenda and the growing improvement of traditional forms and concepts of security cooperation. In doing so, it aims to investigate whether the EU has been effective in realizing its stated security objectives and those of its Member States, taking into account its development via treaties, legal and political acts based on them and multiannual strategies and

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¹ Faculty of Political Sciences and International Studies, Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń, Poland, piotr.rakowski@umk.pl.

programmes, followed also by practical projects and initiatives. And behind this analysis are key questions which lead to different discussions and conclusions: is the EU truly effective in performing its tasks and objectives; whether the Member States are really willing to follow the path designed and what if the relevant bodies and agencies are not ready to rely on political and development of designated cooperation?

Gruszczak argues that the EU (and not only the Member States) occupies a key role in the governance of European security i.e. the EU has emerged as a significant security and intelligence-led actor. The book constitutes in-depth and systematic study of the political and legal instruments the EU employs in sharing and exchanging the intelligence. It also represents an important step towards redressing conceptual gaps in the study of security governance, particularly as it pertains to the European Union. Which comes to the relevant importance since we observe the attempts to interconnect also initiatives from different policies, namely Area of Freedom, Security and Justice (ASFJ) and Common Security and Defense Policy (CSDP). Disregards existing formal limitations.

The book has been constructed over 6 chapters that provides that gradual basis of Gruszczak's analysis. First of all, the authors examines the strategic, political and legal basis to establish, if any, European intelligence community. The one that emerges and empowers from the overall development of the Union, not surprisingly also influenced by external factors. What is characteristic in his writing is the fact that he does limit himself within the boundaries of different policies and legal instruments but provides the reader with cross-cutting reference to different perspectives. Consequently, it does not surprise that with following chapters he analyses the role of European External Action Service (EEAS), Situation Centre Sit-Cen and Satellite Centre subsequently. And then he tries to look at the issue of intelligence community from a different angle, namely through the work and competencies of 2 crucial EU agencies. Both European Police Office Europol and Frontex are devoted to coordinate but also effectively support the Member States, providing intelligence-based support to transborder investigations run in the EU. And by doing so, they aspire to be the part of overall internal security community. On the other hand, the author does not refrain from addressing the limits of this appraisal. And what is remarkably seen e.g. in the failure of European Intelligence Agency project that was never adopted though being discussed occasionally.

In each of the 6 chapters, the author also tries to answer whether the emergence of the EU as a security actor, and in particular the one that attempts to provide secure and trusted intelligence sharing environment, does it also complements the role of states as a security providers? Or, due to emphasized by Gruszczak the

lack of unquestionable and effective implementation through the number of years proves that the Member States are not ready to do so yet. Or even further, the final addresses of those policy objectives and numeral attempts to make intelligence community a concrete and workable may not deconstruct the wall of limited trust of final recipients. Thus art. 4.4 of the Treaty on European Union that says: “(...) *In particular, national security remains the sole responsibility of each Member State*” that defines s-called security clause does also constitutes a relevant illustration of hidden needs and even fears towards wide and smooth intelligence exchange over the Member States’ borders.

Therefore does the European intelligence community really exist? Gruszczak is right when he highlights the difficulties and tensions between the concept of solidarity and sovereignty prerogatives facing the Member States when tackling internal and external security challenges in order to assess the role and limitations of the EU as a security player and the EU’s role in governing European security. For decades security (both internal and external) remained as a sole and individual competence of the states whilst many attempts to overcome this perceptions (not only legal) failed. There is substantial progress that due to contemporary changes of security threats and gradual development of cooperation mechanisms, dedicated to introduce new and transborder instruments, both legal and practical in character. However, what also one may easily conclude, the practical implementation does not follow such vision and is limited by the major recipients i.e. Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs) and other players. So, referring to Gruszczak’s final chapter, he comes to the conclusion that such cooperation, such intelligence community does exist though it is *in statu nascendi*, not fully implemented. And the role to experts, observers and perhaps also policy makers is to be aware of this fact as well as be certain of its internal inequalities and different paces of development.

The book is recommended for anyone with an interest in law and politics of the European Union, in particular in the AFSJ as well as it is ideal designated reading for graduate courses on law, political science and international relations. Additionally, it constitutes a valuable reference for any post-graduate studies related to security and public safety.