

EDITORS' NOTE

It may be trivial that the year 2020 brought many changes, but it did... The world we knew has changed, the world economy evolved, and the COVID-19 pandemic was not only the cause of alteration, it was also the catalyst for the hitherto processes.

The following year, 2021, isn't better or easier. It is a year full of political and economic events of global importance: the United Kingdom left the European Union; in the United States a new president took office, which was met with an unprecedented attack on the Capitol; the Americans left Afghanistan and the Taliban regime took power again; a single container ship blocked the Suez Canal causing a week-long obstruction that prevented an estimated US\$ 9.6 billion worth of trade; and many others. We will see, how the economic dimension of the pandemic, political changes, and military conflicts will affect our day-by-day life.

I am pleased to publish the newest "Ante Portas – Security Studies" issue, which is mostly concerned about the economic changes, threats, and challenges not only related to the pandemic. Our Authors represent two geographic areas – Georgia and Poland. Georgians, Aliko Guchua, Irakli Gabelia, and David Peikrishvili concerned their area of expertise to economic security the Black Sea Region; Vaktang Maisaia and Aliko Guchua, brought the topic of economic aspects of the nuclear disarmament, and Thornike Zedelashvili indicated the economic threats of the EU Cyber Security Strategy. Khatuna Chapichadze described the possible role of cryptocurrencies' effect on economics and Bukhuti Sitchinava showed a massive threat of water shortages on the example of Iraqi Kurdistan. Polish Authors are concerned with their topics mostly with the Polish economics – venture capital and private equity funds (Kamila Kowynia-Leśniak), labour market (Wiktor Adamus) and the mechanism of transition the Polish currency into the Euro (Alina Walenia). However, Anna Bałdyga brought a wide analysis of the myths that arose on the Nord Stream 2 gas pipeline.

I am sure that 2022 will bring new challenges, chances, risks and threats – hopefully, peaceful and prospering. But before this, enjoy your reading!

Jakub Żak
Editor-In-Chief