

BOGDAN KLICH

Senator in the Polish Parliament, Chairman of the Foreign and EU Affairs Committee in the Polish Senate

Ali Aslan, International TV Presenter and Journalist

Bogdan Klich, are you concerned about the level of support on the part of European states and perhaps more importantly, the European people as far as staying strong with Ukraine as long as it takes?

Bogdan Klich

Without a doubt, it is much better than at the beginning of the war. It means that there is a growing understanding in Europe, not just in some parts of Europe, of the role of Ukraine and the principle that the security of Europe depends on Ukraine's independence. The security of the European Union, at least, depends on the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine. For many years, it was a principle of our Polish Eastern policy, but I now see that awareness in all the member states of both the Alliance and the European Union and that is a good sign.

On the other hand, we still have three challenges I would like to raise and discuss with the audience. First, there is a kind of division of labor between NATO and the European Union. Although, of course, the European Union reacted quickly and extraordinarily to the Russian war, there is a growing consciousness that the European Union should be mainly responsible for crisis management missions, while collective security is and should be in the hands of NATO. When President Macron takes such a stance it is symptomatic for Europe. Although in the new Strategic Concept of the Alliance, the crisis management was still put in an important place, after the fatigue of out-of-area missions, mainly in Afghanistan, I cannot imagine a NATO engagement in this type of missions in the future. On the other hand, the Strategic Compass indicates that the European Union should be ready to conduct all types of Petersberg missions. This is a clear definition of the European Union's level of ambition. Of course, one could discuss the current stage of capability developments and if the EU is able to achieve all those goals, including peace enforcement and stabilization missions, at least at the scale of the Althea mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina. However, this division of labor for crisis management in the hands of the European Union and collective security in the hands of NATO is more and more visible.

Ali Aslan

It is certainly the division of labor as Finland and Sweden are getting ready to join the Alliance and expand the sphere of influence of Europe. Thank you, Bogdan Klich, for pointing that out. It is going to be quite interesting to see how that plays out.