

## THE EASTERN FRONTIER OF THE EUROPEAN UNION. EXPRESSION OF THE PAST / FUTURE BINOME

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**Abstract.** The Study enounces first of all, the fundamental notions of international law concerning the frontier as limit of the State territory and of the exercise of sovereignty on this space. Then, it presents the evolution of the borders of Romania during the previous century – as a result of evolutions in Central and East Europe connected mainly, to the Second World War and the events preceding it. The author has clear and explicit considerations and opinions on these issues, as he attended some of the negotiations, personally.

Then the study insists on the situation of the external border of the European Union and on its significance for the Union and for the Romanian State. The author clarifies that participation to the Union does not change the nature of the external border, as each member State continues to exercise its essential functions for ensuring territorial integrity and defending national security. EU treaties have at the same time, to be applied on the territories of member States; that means that the external border is the limit of exercise of these competences, while remaining the frontier of the respective State.

Finally, the author underlines the need for an adequate treatment and support by the Union for a State that has to manage an external border of the prior.

**Key words:** frontier, State territory, territorial jurisdiction, external border, EU competences, the Treaty of Lisbon, the space of liberty, security and justice

**1. Romania's Eastern frontier** – as one of the 28 UE members State – is, in terms of alignment, substance, as well as regarding the functions it fulfils, the **Eastern frontier** of the Union<sup>1</sup>. As alignment, the two frontier lines overlap; as a role to play, they are not absolutely identical, but they are nonetheless similar – with a series of additional responsibilities that Romania undertook as a member State of the Union.

**The meaning of the word *frontier***, in terms of importance and implications it has or maybe hides, goes beyond what appears to be a simplistic term, a commonplace almost; in the past, the frontier used to be a reason for starting devastating wars, a reason for tearing apart civilizations and cultures – generator of history, with critical times and opposite aspiration instead of being a place of

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<sup>1</sup> The segment from the Eastern frontier of the EU which overlaps with the Romanian frontier, each of them having a completely different history and political/legal reasoning.