



## The Presence of European Union (EU) in Caucasus and its Impact on Security of Islamic Republic of Iran

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### ABSTRACT

South Caucasus is a mountainous region at southwest of Russia that is limited from the west to Black Sea, of the east to Mazandaran Sea (Caspian Sea), from the north to low land of Kuma- Manych region in Russia, and from the south to Iran and from the southwestern side to Turkey. Due to regional situation and past and current geopolitical and geostrategic importance, this region has been a location for rivalries and conflicts between regional and trans-regional superpowers including Russia, Britain, Iran, and Ottoman Empire (today Turkey) and United States today. Nowadays, EU also tends to increase its influence in this region because of the reasons, which are mentioned in the following so this issue may seriously affect on security in Islamic Republic of Iran. Likewise, the main question in this article is about the effects of EU influences in South Caucasus and on security in Iran so the hypothesis in this essay is that the presence and influence of EU in South Caucasus might have led to threatening of security in Islamic Republic of Iran.

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## INTRODUCTION

During two past decades, South Caucasus has been highly noticed by superpowers. This region has drawn attention by superpowers including EU as Transit Corridor of Europe- Caucasus-Asia (TRACECA). At early 1990s of course EU did not show any attention to developing its influence in southern Caucasus region but afterwards following to proposing the neighborhood policy, this union decided to expand its cooperation with this region. In the course of achieving this goal, EU took step toward expansion of security in southern Caucasus region as well as conversion of Human Rights, democracy, and freedom in this region with European standards. Numerous conflicts in the region, requirement of European investors to expand their markets, using Caucasus region as a bridge to access to Caspian Sea as well as rich energy resources of this region caused the further notice by EU to Caucasus region more than ever. The relationship among three countries including Georgia, Armenia, and Azerbaijan with EU signifies the presence of this union within the geostrategic and geopolitical territory of Iran that may be accompanied with some risks for security in Islamic Republic of Iran. We intend in this article to examine the goals of EU in expansion of their influence to the east and southern Caucasus region and as a result its impact on security in Islamic Republic of Iran after exploring the history and way formation of this union by means of theoretical framework of security in Copenhagen School.

### 1) Conceptual framework:

- *National security in Copenhagen school:*

In terminology, 'Security' denotes being immune and safe and fearless. This feature is acquired when there is no threat and risk [12]. Berzhinsky assumes national security as existing situations based on protection and taking some measures, which immunize the countries from influence by enemy [6]. Walter Lippman argues that a nation possess security when it can protect from its basic values in the case of avoidance from waging war and if it wages the war this country can advance those objectives [7]. Richard Cooper maintains that the national

security denotes the capability of a community in protection and utilization from its culture and values. CA Manning: Security is freedom from insecurity. Stanley Hoffman: Security is to support from a nation against physical attack and keeping secure its economic activities from external destructive trends. Morz: Security means the relative release from hazardous threats. Ian Bellany: The national security denotes the relative freedom from the war along with relatively high expectation from this point that if any war occurs the result would be the defeat for the opponent. Lawrence Martin: Security comprises of guarantee for future welfare [6].

\* *Copenhagen School and security:*

After 1980s and failure of realism and liberalism theorists in predication and prevention from waging the wars in international relations, some of theorists challenged and revised the paradigms and assumptions these macro theories in international relations in addition to emphasis on this point that these schools could not appropriately perceive and analyze the current issues in the international relations and started proposing new theories regarding national security, which have already had less background. In particular, the threats arisen from the war were gradually reduced and consequently the impression of these units was developed about national security and with respect to analyses on security by some theorists such as Ole Weaver and Barry Buzan etc and it caused to make several efforts to present new definitions about security that was beyond the war and peace [11]. The main core of this effort was made by a group of theorists, which was well-known later as Copenhagen School. It was called as Copenhagen School because these theorists have been convened in Copenhagen city, Denmark. Of these theorists one can refer to Mc Sweeney, Ole Weaver, and Barry Buzan. Some of the studied preferences in this school are as follows: Security references, concept of threat and focus on government, regional security systems, and developed security [17]. But, the concept of national security is the main intellectual framework of this school. In this school, the concept of security is so intricate that it can be examined independent from some concepts like power and interests. They believe in that the national security is a concept that is maximally proportional to western communities while the concept of security is securitization of government in Third World Nations. In this school, national security is assumed as a status in which the political and social identities can actualize their political, social, and cultural engineering free from any type of threat. Buzan puts security threats in three modes.

- 1) The status in which there is some threat while there is no tool available for coping with it so this is insecurity mode.
- 2) The condition in which there is some threat but at the same time there are tools for coping with it so here the security governs not insecurity.
- 3) Third mode, which is also assumed as security recommendation in Copenhagen School, is when it is tried to exclude the subjects from securitization status and to transfer it two other fields and at the same time the successful policy is also one that can exit the subject from securitization area and enter them into political climate and under this condition there is also security even stronger and more than the past.

Focus on regional security clusters is one of the basic concepts in Copenhagen School. In this school, the global view is not considered as proper body to analyze security and it is argued that the past theories have gone to two extremes in addressing government securitization and or taking global approach toward security and as a result, Buzan et al tried to observe balance so they believe that one-dimensional focus does not seem to be proper and none of them is the sole actor in this subject but there are systems of regional security with their specific characteristics and different from each other [9]. With respect to the mentioned subjects and also as Buzan also implies; this school is based on three principles:

- 1) The analysis in this school is not at world level and it mainly tends to regional analysis.
- 2) There are numerous units and dimensions for security and it does not exclusively comprise of militarism.
- 3) It also pursues certain attitude regarding securitization of subjects and it is believed in rejection of this issue.

• *Dimensions of security in Copenhagen School:*

Buzan divides dimensions of national security into five dimensions including political, military, economic, social, and ecologic security and he claims that these five dimensions are highly interdependent.

1) *Military security:*

Government is still deemed as the paramount- but not the only- subject of security in military sector and the governmental ruling elites are the actors for securitization of subjects. Governments have much more militaristic sources on their control than other actors. The other reason is that the governing elites have arisen legally and politically as the major claimants for the legitimate rights of enforcement of coercion whether inside or outside their territory of their power. Threat in this dimension of security is assumed as the most tangible type of threat since it overshadows all of other dimensions of security. The foremost variables, which may play role in creation and or non creation and protection from military security, are as follows:

### 2) *Political security:*

Ole Weaver, Barry Buzan, and Jaap De Wilde mention this type of security as the most extensive and complicated part of security. All of threats and resistance are defined politically thus due to the political definition and or developing of definition a political action is securitized [1]. Whereas the government is basically a political identity thus the political threat may be as fearful as military threat. This issue applies particularly to the cases when the government is weak, but even on the occasions when the government is powerful and strong, these political threats can be also the source of concern. Buzan considers the political threat as the most hazardous threat for the government for which in the section of political security, the threat for existence is realized within the framework of fundamental principle of government i.e. sovereignty and ideology. In this sector, the government is usually the actor for securitization. As a result, when the government witnesses as subjected to threat it may resorts to security issues and procedures, which can originate from domestic or foreign threats. The considerations of political securities are generalized in both sides. Firstly, the equivalent non- military threats include other political units rather than government as well. Secondly, beyond of such units, we can consider the political security as the concept of defense from systemic subjects like international community. Paying attention to strong and weak governments is also important in dimension of political security since it reveals the levels of vulnerability against political threats. A strong government is typically and noticeably invulnerable in political sector. Overall, one can refer to minor dimensions like weakness and strength structure, efficiency, rate of legitimacy, security of government, parties, and subject of ethnicities and minorities in political dimension of national security [10].

### 3) *Social securitization:*

Barry Buzan used term 'social securitization' for the first time in book of 'governments, people, and fear' and considered its related issues including several threats, which might violated to identity of community. Accordingly, the social securitization refers to this issue that survival and duration of any community is subjected to protection from its identities. Buzan assumes the social securitization as the identity and guarding from this identity as the goal of social securitization [19]. Weaver defines the social securitization as the potential of the community to protect from its basic features under conditions of change and against real and possible threats. Buzan also believes that the social securitization exists when there is potential or actual force as a threat for identity of members of the community. Threat is related to identities and the respected values of the community in the sector of social securitization and accordingly an identity is attacked by another identity. As a result, the social securitization is related to stability and duration of traditional patterns, language, culture, religion, identity, and national habits under conditions suitable for evolution and development [16].

### 4) *Economic security:*

The social security has longer history than other agenda developed for security such as ecologic security and social securitization. According to definition by Buzan, the economic security includes access to sources, capital, money, and necessary markets to keep reasonable levels and degrees of welfare and power for government [16]. Consequently, although the economic threats can be assumed as some items rather than issues of national security, it should be acted very cautiously in this regard since if the external measures made by others have led to physical loss and thereby put pressure on various governmental institutions and even it might be followed with a lot of losses for health and lifetime of population thus it could not be assumed as equivalent to military invasion since the military attack exceeds from the border among the peaceful and violent behaviors. The offensive behaviors are seen in economic activities and acceptance of risk is a part of cost that is paid for acquiring the opportunities.

### 5) *Ecologic security:*

The ecologic security has been defined in this way that it comprises conservation and protection from the regional and world biosphere as a necessary and vital supporting system on which all of human institutions and activities depend. Buzan deduces that the subject of ecologic security really witnesses to keep the existing level of human civilization. Determination of reference goal is also considered as an interesting subject for subject of security. It seems that the environment is the reference goal and also several efforts have been made for this purpose by some persons like Dennis Pirages and Coy Rogers [16].

### 2) *European Union (EU) after collapse of Soviet Union:*

At early period of Soviet collapse, Caucasus region had not special position in European diplomacy and the Europe was mainly focused on Balkan and Eastern Europe and with respect to several problems and crises of these regions, they seemed to be risky for security of EU. But at the end of 1990s and early 21<sup>st</sup> century, Europe noticed South Caucasus for some reasons. The first one was that at early 21<sup>st</sup> century, EU was benefitted from appropriate economic and political development in international relations and this was a factor that led to more sense of power-seeking among some members of this union and secondly with occurrence of various ethnic-

tribal crises in South Caucasus and failure of Russia to control these crises, and thirdly coincided with economic development in Europe this continent might also need to energy more than ever and this requirement was simultaneous with explorations of huge energy sources in South Caucasus and on the other hand with respect to Russian monopoly in European energy market it did not seem rational for this union so the heads of European countries had tried to diversify the energy exportation markets and finally the process of expansion of European borders toward Eastern Europe were some factors, which led to dramatic development in EU to pay special attention to South Caucasus.

Orientation of EU versus South Caucasus was the subject for many topics inside this union. But practically and certainly in 1999 and during the chairmanship of Finland in this union these discussions were more seriously continued. Also European Parliament obviously asked for formulation and advancement of an integrated strategy at that year in this region. Since 1999 with further convergence among members of EU and with joining eastern European nations to this union, the necessity for formulation of an integrated strategy to take a common diplomacy versus Caucasus was felt further [20]. As it mentioned EU security strategy document, we should pay more attention to issues in South Caucasus that will be our regional neighbor.

Since the same year, the relationships were started among EU and South Caucasus Republics and it was developed year by year until it was expanded with outbreak the Rose Revolution in Georgia in 2003 and presence of EU in South Caucasus and this union was presented as an important acting agent in regional developments.

- *Goals and interests of EU in South Caucasus:*

Due to geostrategic, geo-economic, and geopolitical reasons, South Caucasus is considered as important for Europe. With respect to its appropriate situation, South Caucasus can act as a bridge of access for Europe to the east. Similarly, with respect to possession of a lot energy reservoirs and sources, this region can be converted into a place to provide energy for Europe. Generally, the goals of EU in South Caucasus can be divided into two dimensions including political goals and economic goals:

*1) Political goals:*

One of the paramount political goals of Europe in South Caucasus is to improve its relations with Caucasian Republics and increasing presence of EU in this geopolitical region. In this course, EU tries to advance its policies in this region with presentation of a committed picture of this union to regional growth and development processes and mutual interests [20]. Likewise, one of the other political goals of this union is to show EU as a strong and active player in Caucasus and introducing it as a successful pattern for Caucasian countries.

*2) Economic goals:*

Ever-increasing expansion of energy consumption in the world and reduction of the related sources have caused various countries of the world, particularly the developed countries, to tend to provide the energy at right time, with right quantity, and at right price. Based on estimation of EU energy experts, the world oil demand will exceed from 113.1 million barrels per day by 2025 and this rising demand should be mainly met in balanced form by petroleum producing countries. As a result, EU dependence on energy exports is considered as one of important and outstanding points for this union. In this regard, South Caucasus may be highly useful in providing energy for Europe. Similarly, as a place for exportation of EU commodities, South Caucasus may become important for this union.

- *Content and dimensions of Declaration of Eastern Partnership:*

As it implied, Declaration of Eastern Partnership was proposed by Swedish and Polish governments and this project referred to general policies and improving policies of EU versus eastern European countries and South Caucasus. Overall, the countries of Ukraine, Belarus, Moldavia, Georgia, Azerbaijan, and Armenia were taken into consideration in this project. This project comprises of several items like facilities for various fields of transport, trade, visas, immigration and political, economic, and cultural reforms considered by EU for higher convergence between these republics with this union.

In general, in a common declaration that was issued in Prague Summit among the members of EU with the target countries in this project, the objectives and plans of Declaration of Eastern Partnership were mentioned. Some cases were implied in this declaration including concluding of partnership agreements, more appropriate access to free trade markets, creating dynamism in security pacts, facilitation for visas related affairs, ability for long- term trips to Europe, common efforts to campaign against illegal immigrations, ethnic crises, corruption, organized crimes, security for energy and supporting from regional development as the major elements of Declaration of Eastern Partnership (Declaration of Eastern Partnership, 2008). In order to realize the aforesaid goals, EU intends to put 600 million Euros at disposal of the member states in this project by 2013.

- *Declaration of Eastern Partnership and South Caucasus:*

As it mentioned, at the end of 1990s, the Europe focused more attention to South Caucasus and in 2003 and with occurrence of Rose Revolution in Georgia, European strategy was coordinated to South Caucasus. Similarly, afterwards, the occurrence of August Crisis among Russia and Georgia over the separation – seeking regions in Abkhazia and South Ossetia was another development that caused increasing attention of EU paid to issues in South Caucasus. In addition, the existing enormous energy resources in South Caucasus and Mazandaran Sea and ability for transferring them to Europe have led to necessity for further convergence among countries in South Caucasus with EU. Declaration of Eastern Partnership is assumed as one of the important projects of EU versus this region and it is aligned with preparation of appropriate platforms for rising European presence and further convergence between regional nations with this union.

Also in the opposite side, except Armenia that is under the control of Russia, two countries of Azerbaijan and Georgia make serious efforts to join to this union and among these two countries, Georgia also shows the maximum inclination in this regard. At present, Azerbaijan and Georgia have become members of European Council and they seriously cooperate with plan for partnership with NATO for Peace and they are considered as the candidates for official joining to EU. Therefore, it seems that Declaration of Eastern Partnership has been also highly welcomed by these two countries. This project that is implemented regardless Russia and Iran- as two main neighbors of South Caucasus- may essentially affect in regional interests and security of these two regional powers.

- *Armenia and Declaration of Eastern Partnership:*

After acquisition of its independence, Armenia entered into a highly expensive and harsh crisis with Azerbaijan so this has led to political and economic isolation of this country in Caucasus and countries of Georgia, Azerbaijan, and Turkey either stopped their relations with this country and/ or kept it at the lowest possible level. This caused the extreme proximity and dependence of this country to Russia and then Iran. As a result, this trend has led equally to obstruct establishing appropriate relationship with western world, especially EU. Sum of these factors have caused Armenia to be characterized as the weakest Caucasus republic during two past decades and it has spent in political and economic isolation.

Occurrence of such problems has caused the leaders of Armenia to think about a solution to exit from political and economic isolation and resolving their diplomatic problems in Caucasus. With coming to power, Serog Sarkisian as president in Armenia, the more realistic attitude governed over diplomacy system in this country toward the consequences and losses caused by political and economic isolation and political and economic elites in this country tended to take certain and practical strategies to exit from isolation where their rapprochement for relation with Turkey was one of their foremost policies.

Similarly, participation in Declaration of Eastern Partnership with EU is one of the paramount practical strategies taken by Armenia so in this regard the statesmen of Armenia have started taking some measures as well. Participation in Declaration of Eastern Partnership in Prague at presidential level is one of such measures.

In general, the foremost preferences of EU versus Armenia are as follows:

- 1) Higher convergence with Armenia and contribution to improve political conditions in this country;
- 2) Participation in peaceful resolving the Qarabagh Crisis;
- 3) Trying to improve economic growth and development and reduced poverty and corruption in Armenia and strengthening democratic structures and rule of law;
- 4) The further improvement of climate for investment in various sectors more than ever.

- *Georgia and Declaration of Eastern Partnership:*

Among the Caucasus Republics, Georgia is maximally inclined to become a member in EU and Euro-Atlantic institutions. This tendency is primarily because of civilization, cultural, and religious similarities with Europe and the westernized political stream that has come to power in this country after Rose Revolution and also the crisis among this country and Russia in 2008. With respect to its geopolitical situation, Georgia is assumed more important than two other republics for Europe since this republic can play essential role in transferring energy to Europe and reducing European dependence on Russian energy. In this regard, EU tries to establish deeper links to Georgia within the framework of various plans including Declaration of Eastern Partnership and to manage more actively the existing challenges and crises in this country.

Overall, European interests in Georgia include encouragement to democracy, developing free trade, and protection from territorial integrity and stability in this country. From EU view, economic development and supporting from civil community and individual freedoms may resolve most of cultural, economic, and political problems of this country [8].

- *Azerbaijan and Declaration of Eastern Partnership:*

Azerbaijan is one of the other countries, which are relatively high interested in membership in EU. Qarabagh Crisis was the first formal contact among EU and Azerbaijan and cooperation among EU and

Azerbaijan was started from this crisis. What it has caused EU to pay special attention to Azerbaijan is the existing energy sources deposited in this country and Mazandaran Sea (Caspian Sea). In other words, Europe specially counts on energy sources at Caucasus and transferring them through Georgia to Europe. With respect to its position in the region as well as making effort to reduce Russian influence in Caucasus, Azerbaijan also tries to approach to EU and to become as a member in this union.

In addition to Declaration of Eastern Partnership, The European Neighborhood Policy and TRACECA Project are considered as some of the other important plans of EU in South Caucasus. Both of these two policies are being executed like Declaration of Eastern Partnership regardless interests of Iran that is considered as one of the strong neighbors of Caucasus and this may crucially affect on political and economic interests of Islamic Republic of Iran in South Caucasus.

- *Membership of three Caucasian countries in European Neighborhood Policy:*

In 2003, EU published an important document under title of neighborhood of wider Europe. This document includes some mechanisms for the countries at neighborhood of EU. Of these mechanisms in this document that has been anticipated for the neighbors, one can refer to some issues including deeper economic convergence, consolidation of political and cultural ties with neighbors, cooperation toward democratization trend and respect for human rights, joint cooperation in frontiers and campaign against terrorism and religious fundamentalism, joint cooperation and liability in resolving conflicts at European borders, and prevention from expansion of them to Europe. In fact, this document has been designated as one of European reforming measures taken for the countries, which are qualified for membership in this union.

In 2004, joining of three countries of South Caucasus to this plan was approved. Membership of three Caucasian countries in European Neighborhood Policy was in fact considered as a step taken toward encouragement of these republics for further convergence with EU and divergence of these countries from Iran and Russia.

- *TRACECA plan:*

In fact, TRACECA is assumed as Transit Corridor of Europe- Caucasus-Asia thereby the regions in central Asia- South Caucasus- Turkey- Europe are linked together. Currently, there are two main access routes for transport in South Caucasus: The first one is north-to-south access route and vice versa in which Russia and Iran assumed as main axes and the second one consists of west-to-east route and vice versa (TRACECA) in which the main axes are Azerbaijan, Georgia, Turkey, and Europe.

TRACECA project was planned with partnership of 8 countries in central Asia, South Caucasus, and EU for transport purpose at the end of 1993. This project is tended to expand the capacity for railroad, road, airline, and marine transportation infrastructure with partnership by Turkey and the littoral states around Black Sea so that the commodities can be transported with great sizes and lower cost and further security. Similarly, this project is tended to stabilize common Custom Regulations among the members [2].

- *Presence of EU in South Caucasus and its impact on security of Islamic Republic of Iran:*

One of the other unions, which play more prominent role and presence in South Caucasus and it has been highly effective in failures of Iran to achieve its objectives in this region, is European Union (EU). With respect to possession of many opportunities in various political, economic, and cultural dimensions, Caucasus region has been turned into a scene for competition between regional and trans-regional powers so any actor tries to acquire the maximum benefit from this region. Naturally, influence of trans-regional powers like EU has caused reduction and restriction of opportunities and influence of Iran in this region so in this section we discuss about this issue.

- *Threatening parameters of EU presence in against security of Islamic Republic of Iran:*

The threatening parameters of EU against national interests and security of Islamic Republic of Iran in South Caucasus can be analyzed in three dimensions of political, economic, and cultural threats:

*1) Political threats:*

The wide influence of EU in South Caucasus and making effort to encourage countries in this region for membership in European institutions is considered as one of the negative consequences for national security and interests of Islamic Republic of Iran since from political perspective this initially causes spending some of national facilities and sources to remove the damages and threats due to presence of rival unions to Iran including EU in this region. Secondly, interventions by actors on the domestic crises and conflicts and among governments and even the existing regional players in South Caucasus and their support from rival and westernized groups (for Iran) may prepare the conditions more susceptible for duration of crisis, instability, and insecurity at northern borders of Iran. At third place, according to principle of scarcity of interests and facilities it can be deduced that as the political influence and activity of other trans-regional players like EU is increased,

the scope of opportunities for exploitation from the existing situations and facilities is reduced for Iran. Accordingly, one can consider the measures of EU for expansion of their comprehensive political influence in South Caucasus as negative consequence for Iran [20]. Fourthly, influence and support of EU among Caucasus Republics may increase the power of bargaining in these countries versus Islamic Republic of Iran and at the same time it reduces the power of political maneuver for Iran versus these countries. One can observe an example of this trend in legal regime of Caspian Sea and baseless allegations of Azerbaijan Republic in this regard. Fifthly, expansion of EU influence in Caucasus causes to increase the cooperation of these countries with rival countries against Iran in this region (USA, Israel, and Turkey) and this may also negatively affect on national and regional security of Iran. The other example of this process can be seen in assassination of Iranian nuclear scientists where the responsible assassins of these cases have been trained in Azerbaijan and under supervision of Israel.

### 2) *Economic threats:*

EU is deemed as one of the greatest economic powers in the world. With its influence in South Caucasus, this economic power tries to approach the regional countries to EU economically. For this purpose, this union is actively present in granting financial and technical aids and economic projects in these countries. The foremost feature of EU influence in economy sector is the existing enormous energy sources in this region and ever-increasing requirement to it for EU. Thus, energy transit from Caucasus to Europe is crucially important for EU. The energy-related policy of EU is also to transfer energy to Europe without partnership of Iran and Russia. In addition to provide its requirement by transferring energy from Caucasus to Europe, EU tends to reduce its dependence to Russian energy by this measure and to diversify the routes of transferring energy to Europe.

EU also implements TRACECA plan in this region. In the case of perfect execution of this plan, it may lead to economic development in member states in this project. Similarly, perfect implementation of this project cause to circumvent Iran and Russia to transit commodities to various points and this can affect negatively on economic interests of Iran. Particularly, the inappropriate conditions for road transit in Iran, national worn transit network, bureaucratic custom regulations, presence of non-economic institutions and organizations in transit process, inadequacy of welfare services and accessorial utilities at the margin of transit routes may reduce the attractions of Iranian transit routes and they lead to non-economic choice of Iranian transit routes for TRACECA. Since two years ago when some of civil projects have been completed in this route, the volume of commodities transit has been reduced from Iranian routes.

### 3) *Cultural threats:*

As it mentioned, the foremost vulnerability point of Iran is related to cultural dimension and it returns to variety of ethnicities and diversity of religious and native culture of Islamic Republic of Iran with western culture. This issue has caused the western countries to take measure for cultural invasion against Iranian-Islamic values and try to spread their own culture and values out of which one can refer to these cases including Fighting against Islam, Iranophobia in the region, attribution of terrorists to Muslims and Iran, cultural invasion, and cultural soft-war etc.

### *Conclusion:*

EU is one of the important and influential players in South Caucasus that has expanded its influence in this region after collapse of Soviet Union. The analysis on goals and interest of this actor indicates its interests in South Caucasus are in conflict with the interests of Islamic Republic of Iran and competition among these two players in this region is a game with sum of zero. Namely, EU tends to hinder Iran from achieving its goals and interests in this region with maximum influence in Caucasus.

To achieve its objectives in South Caucasus, EU put several projects and plans high on its agenda including Europe Neighborhood Policy, Declaration of Eastern Partnership, TRACECA plan, and also creation and expansion of bilateral relations with each of Caucasian countries where no position has been anticipated for cooperation with Iran in each of these projects and plans. This shows that EU is not highly inclined to presence and cooperation of Iran in South Caucasus and inversely this union tries to reduce influence of Iran among the regional countries and to make them to tend to this union.

In a general evaluation from relations of EU with three Caucasian Republics, it can be declared that with hostile relations among this country and Russian Federation, Georgia is maximally inclined to join to institutions in EU and thereby it intends to create equilibrium against Russia. Unlike Georgia, Azerbaijan is not perfectly tended toward the west and EU but it tries to establish balance among Europe and USA with Russia while Armenia has still kept its active relations with Russia and Iran with respect to the given political requirements and crisis in which it places.

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