

Narrative Report

(*Graduate Travel-Research Fellowship on the European Union,
European Integration, EU-Canada Relations*)

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In April 2005 I traveled to Brussels (Belgium) and Bucharest (Romania) to conduct research on my project titled *Changing Patterns of Civilian Control over the Military in the Post-Cold War Security Environment*, focusing on the European Union's (EU) European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP) and on Romania, as a candidate country to the EU. The results of my research trip to Europe will be integrated into my Ph.D. dissertation, investigating the impact of the international threat environment on civil-military relations (case studies: Romania and Canada), based on a proposal that has been approved by a Department of Political Science defence committee.

The research visit (from April 1 to April 21, 2005) offered me the opportunity to meet with experts on these topics, to conduct interviews, debate and assess various theories and hypotheses related to this project and to establish and develop new professional networks that can contribute to advancing knowledge in this area of specialization. Research in Europe was necessary, as I use as case studies for my Ph.D. dissertation Romania and European security and defence institutions, such as ESDP-related organizations; Canada and North American security and defence arrangements constitute the other half of my case studies.

In Brussels, I had the opportunity to conduct interviews with experts such as Dr. Kyriakos Revelas (Principal Administrator, Security Policy Unit, DG External Relations, European Commission), Dr. Dan Luca (Senior PR Manager, EurActiv.com), Alba Lamberti (EU Liaison Manager, International Crisis Group), Catalina Guragata (Researcher, GASPECO, Université Libre de Bruxelles), Dan Vexler (Research Manager, International Crisis Group), and Stefan Tinca (Security and Defence Expert, Mission of Romania to the European Union).

In Bucharest, I had the opportunity to conduct interviews with experts such as Dr. Mihail Ionescu (Director, Institute for Political Studies of Defence and Military History), Dr. Marian Zulean (Security and Defence Expert, Romania's Presidential Administration), Dr. Larry Watts (Security and Defence Expert, Romania's Presidential Administration and US academic), Dan-Claudiu Degeratu (Director General, Department of Defence Policy, Ministry of National Defence), Vasile Magranean (Head of Political Department, daily newspaper *Monitorul*) and Serban Cioculescu (Researcher, *Monitor Strategic*).

The interviews conducted in Brussels and Bucharest helped me refine some of my arguments and fine-tune some causal relations (specifically in terms of intervening variables) related to the impact of the post-Cold War (especially post-September 11, 2001) international threat environment on patterns of interaction between civilian and military elites in Western countries. The interviewees offered not only immediate information on these topics, based on their personal expertise, but also assistance in identifying new relevant data and in contacting other experts. The experience of conducting research in Europe, made possible by this grant, has been very fulfilling and I must here express my gratitude to the organizations and individuals that initiated and managed this program.