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Diplomatic relations of Ukraine with the EU in the sphere of security and in relation to candidacy

Дипломатичні відносини України із ЄС у сфері безпеки та у відповідності до кандидатства

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Abstract

The aspiration of Ukraine to integrate into the European Union and the acquisition of membership in the EU is one of the priority directions of state policy, forasmuch as ensuring the country's full participation in the European and regional security system will create for Ukraine a reliable basis for its sustainable development and protection of national interests. The purpose of the research lies in substantiating the theoretical fundamentals and determining the practical recommendations regarding the diplomatic relations of Ukraine with the European Union in the field of security and in accordance with the candidacy. The general scientific and special research methods have been used in the academic paper, in particular, as follows: analysis, synthesis, scientific abstraction; analogies, comparison; statistical, graphic; generalization, systematization. The results of the research prove that Ukraine is capable of being an important partner of the

Анотація

Прагнення України інтегруватися до Європейського Союзу та набуття членства у ЄС являється одним із пріоритетних напрямів державної політики, адже забезпечення повноправної участі країни у європейській та регіональній системі безпеки створить для України надійне підґрунтя для її сталого розвитку та захисту національних інтересів. Метою дослідження є обґрунтування теоретичних засад та визначення прикладних рекомендацій щодо дипломатичних відносин України із Європейським Союзом у сфері безпеки та у відповідності до кандидатства. У статті використовуються загальнонаукові та спеціальні методи дослідження, зокрема: аналіз, синтез, наукова абстракція; аналогії, порівняння; статистичний, графічний; узагальнення, систематизації. Результати досліджень доводять, що Україна спроможна бути важливим партнером Європейського Союзу у сфері безпеки, що підтверджує її

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European Union in the field of security, which confirms its ability to protect the eastern borders from the aggression of Russia, the problem of which has become extremely acute on the European continent. Diplomatic relations of Ukraine with the European Union in the field of security and in accordance with the application are focused on the problems of military resistance to armed aggression and the annexation of Ukrainian territories, as well as on the search for effective ways of resolving the conflict. It has been proven that the European Union provides significant support to Ukraine in the field of strengthening its defence capabilities and ensuring its functioning (the amount of planned financial assistance amounts to 10 885 million US dollars). The necessity of forming a joint security and defence policy with the European Union on the basis of partnership and mutual guarantee of compliance with the principles of ensuring and maintaining security and peace has been revealed.

Keywords: European integration, diplomatic relations, security, international cooperation, Russia – Ukraine war, European Union.

Introduction

The challenges and dangers accompanying the development of Ukraine as an independent and self-sufficient country lead to the emergence of a number of destabilizing factors, the most significant of which is Ukraine's military resistance to the armed aggression of the Russian Federation. Russia - Ukraine war has created countless risks and threats to the national interests of Ukraine in the field of security and exacerbated the problem of establishing effective international cooperation with the aim of obtaining international support, supplying weapons, financing the needs of the state in order to preserve the lives of the population, the territorial integrity of the country and prevent the implementation of operational and strategic goals of the Russian Federation. It is obvious that the development of a full-scale war on the territory of Ukraine poses a significant threat to the security not only of Ukraine, but also of neighbouring countries that have already acquired membership in the European Union, and other countries of the world that are in diplomatic relations with both sides of the conflict. The existing format for ensuring security on the continent and in the whole world did not justify the expected hopes and turned out to be ineffective and resultless, which has manifested itself in the inability to influence the aggressor country in the framework of peace

здатність захистити східні кордони від агресії Росії, проблема якої на європейському континенті надзвичайно загострилася. Дипломатичні відносини України із Європейським Союзом у сфері безпеки та у відповідності до кандидатства сфокусовані на проблеми військового протистояння збройній агресії та анексії українських територій, а також на пошук ефективних шляхів вирішення конфлікту. Доведено, що Європейський Союз здійснює значну підтримку України у сфері зміцнення її обороноздатності та забезпечення функціонування (обсяги запланованої фінансової допомоги складають 10885 млн. дол. США). Виявлено необхідність формування спільної з Європейським Союзом політики безпеки та оборони на засадах партнерства та взаємного гарантування дотримання принципів забезпечення та підтримки безпеки та миру.

Ключові слова: євроінтеграція, дипломатичні відносини, безпека, міжнародне співробітництво, російсько-українська війна, Європейський Союз.

negotiations and reaching compromise solutions. As a result, we are observing large-scale destruction on the territory of Ukraine, tension in the situation in various countries of the world, the threat of a global food crisis, an increase in large-scale hunger, as well as an intensification of the processes of the development of terrorist activities. The issues specified require the search for effective ways of immediate solution, and the outlined topic of the study acquires special relevance.

The purpose of the research lies in substantiating the theoretical fundamentals and determining the practical recommendations regarding the diplomatic relations of Ukraine with the European Union in the field of security and in accordance with the candidacy.

Literature Review

Ukraine, as an independent sovereign state, has established diplomatic relations with 181 countries of the world, the Holy See, as well as the sovereign Order of Malta throughout the entire period of its existence, and, the state did not break them with any country until 2019. However, the events taking place in Ukraine and related to the armed aggression of the Russian Federation have prompted the country to break

diplomatic relations with Russia on February 24, 2022, Syria on June 30, 2022, and North Korea on July 13, 2022, which by their actions and public appeals have caused a threat to the national interests of Ukraine and violated the level of its safe existence as an independent state.

Morango (2021), investigating the problems of the Russian – Ukrainian conflict, considers diplomatic relations of Ukraine with the European Union as an important tool for ensuring the interaction of the European community with the countries participating in the conflict and building both international relations in general, and cross-border regional relations, in particular, in the conditions of the current state.

Vidnyanskyi (2021) has singled out the main problematic aspects of developing diplomatic relations of Ukraine with such countries as Poland, Hungary, Romania and Slovakia and established that they significantly affect the level of security in the regional dimension. At the same time, Ukrainian – Polish relations have the character of good neighbourliness, which is one of the elements of guaranteeing geopolitical stability in Europe. For what concerns Hungary, Romania, and Slovakia, there are a number of unresolved issues that are periodically exacerbated under the pressure of the Russian Federation, causing threats to Ukraine and disrupting security in the Eastern European region. In particular, it is worth paying particular attention to the pro-Russian standpoint of Hungary, which for a long time systematically vetoes the solution of problematic issues of the implementation of European policy and positions itself in opposition to European solidarity, while V. Orban loudly declares that Ukraine is an artificial state.

Vovk & Sekunova (2016) consider Ukraine's diplomatic relations with France somewhat tense, as evidenced by their instability and France's close interaction with Russia.

Sulym (2020) assesses the current state of diplomatic relations between Ukraine and Germany as a crisis one, which, on the one hand, has been formed against the background of problematic aspects of the internal development of the European Union, and, on the other hand, because of the systemic political instability in Ukraine. However, Germany's support towards Ukraine in the matter of integration into the European Union is assessed at a sufficiently high level. At the same time, the scientist analyses Ukraine's diplomatic relations with Austria and established that the Austrian side is a mentor of

Ukraine in developing relations with the European community.

It should be noted that the prospects of Ukraine's diplomatic relations with the Benelux countries (Belgium, the Netherlands, Luxembourg), with which, according to the viewpoint of Ryzhnikov (2015), effective diplomatic dialogue and cooperation in the foreign economic sphere have been established, are quite optimistic.

Diplomatic relations of Ukraine with the Republic of Lithuania are positively evaluated by Lutsyshyn & Kornat (2021), who have studied Ukrainian – Lithuanian cooperation in the field of security and defence and established close cooperation between the countries, and they characterize partnership relations in security and defence sphere as mutually beneficial and stable.

Along with this, relations between Ukraine and Belarus have become extremely aggravated, which is a sub rosa ally and is actively cooperating with the Russian Federation in waging war on the territory of Ukraine. Analysing the prospects of the European Union's diplomatic relations with such countries as Ukraine, Belarus and Moldova, Baltag (2018) has concluded that the European Union's diplomatic relations with these countries are quite uncertain, forasmuch as the social-political crisis in Ukraine, the decrease in the level of democratization of Moldova and the inclusion of Belarus in the most repressive countries violate the principles of democratic practice of ensuring the security of the European continent and lead to the emergence of a number of risks and threats.

Vovkanych (2021) connects the increase in instability and uncertainty with the aggravation of the global and regional situation of the countries of the European Union and the Eastern European countries as a result of which a significant confrontation has been induced, in which Russia seeks to establish control over Ukraine, which will allow it to obtain significant advantages in terms of geopolitical dominance in Europe and push the US out of Europe. At the same time, the implementation of the principles of the Euro-Atlantic development course of Ukraine contradicts the ideology of Russia, which, in addition to the above, aspires to be the leading geopolitical centre of power in Europe. It is obvious that the full-scale military invasion and armed aggression of Russia against Ukraine has revealed all the weaknesses not only of the countries participating in the conflict, but also of the leading states of the world and international security organizations. As a result, the

international security system has shown the low level of its efficiency and, consequently, has undermined the stability and peace in Europe and the world.

Undoubtedly, the support of the European Union regarding ensuring the stable and democratic development of Ukraine is implemented within the framework of the priority partnership in the “Ukraine – EU” format, which is evidenced by the multifaceted support of Ukraine in the process of Euro-Atlantic integration and increased assistance in the conditions of armed resistance to Russian aggression, as well as powerful political, financial and humanitarian aid of the European Union to Ukraine. The tough sanctions policy of the European Union in relation to the Russian Federation is equally important. In this context, the statement of Borrell (2022) is relevant, who emphasizes the need to strengthen European defence by terminating Russia’s unprovoked war against Ukraine in order to ensure the future security and democracy of the member states of the European Union. At the same time, Russia’s armed aggression is considered to be the cause of the third asymmetric shock, which has destabilized security both in European countries and in countries bordering Ukraine, increasing the impact on Eurozone states due to the influx of refugees and actualizing the need to reduce dependence on Russian energy carriers. In general, Kalyayev & Shapoval (2020) characterize the diplomatic relations of Ukraine with the European Union in the field of security as comprehensively developed on the basis of ensuring the implementation of the principles of democracy and the support of Ukraine by the European Union in armed resistance to the aggression of the Russian Federation.

The decisive steps taken by the European Union in relation to Ukraine, manifested in the unprecedented decision to grant Ukraine the status of a candidate for EU membership, prove the dominant importance of the principles of democracy in the process of developing diplomatic relations and the ability of the European Union to provide a worthy response to geopolitical challenges. Studies of LCF Law Group (2022) in this direction show that Ukraine’s accession to the European Union is preceded by the conducting the necessary reforms, in particular, as follows:

- 1) reform of the Constitutional Court;
- 2) judicial reform;
- 3) strengthening the fight against corruption;

- 4) bringing national legislation into compliance with FATF standards in order to strengthen the fight against money laundering;
- 5) adoption of the anti-oligarchic law;
- 6) harmonization of audiovisual legislation with the norms of European law;
- 7) improvement of legislation on national minorities.

In this context, the establishment of relations between Ukraine and NATO is of great importance, which supports Ukraine’s ability to ensure its own defence capability and contributes to the strengthening of Euro-Atlantic security. However, the establishment of relations with NATO threatens Ukraine with the strengthening of the armed aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine, forasmuch as the latter cites close cooperation with the North Atlantic Alliance as one of the reasons for the unjustified military invasion into Ukraine. There is no gainsaying that it is impossible to establish a political dialogue between Ukraine and Russia in modern conditions; therefore, with the aim of obtaining a certain defensive force against Russia, Ukraine has turned to Switzerland with a request to represent the interests of Ukraine in Russia by Switzerland; however, the consent of the aggressor country for such a representation has not been obtained yet.

The remark of Masters (2022) is reasonable, who claims that Ukraine has played an important role in the world security order for a long period and formed the priorities of interaction with the European Union and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, and the military actions taking place on its territory testify to the destabilization of the situation in the global security environment and the resumption of fighting between superpowers.

Rehman (2022), investigating the Russian – Ukrainian conflict and its impact on global and regional security, has established that Russia’s war against Ukraine provoked the tension in the geopolitical environment, the deterioration of the world order and the problem of the aggravation of nuclear danger on the European continent. Undoubtedly, the security environment on a global and regional scale has a significant impact on Ukraine’s diplomatic relations with the European Union, which, against the background of increasing global trends and challenges, exacerbates the problem of geopolitical turbulence and confrontation, deepens the processes of economic inequality. Under such conditions, the experts of the Razumkov Centre

(Razumkov Center, 2021b; Razumkov Center, 2021a) assume that the outlined trends threaten to disregard the norms of international law, as a result of which the problems of interaction between the main subjects of diplomatic relations worsen and conflicts arise, one of which is the full-scale invasion of the Russian Federation on the territory of sovereign Ukraine.

A positive solution to the problem of ensuring peace on the European continent, terminating the war in Ukraine and providing the principles of international security depends on the effectiveness of establishing diplomatic relations between the countries participating in the conflict and the world community. It is obvious that the entire civilized world condemns the armed aggression of the Russian Federation and makes maximum efforts to support and help in the confrontation of Ukraine. Unfortunately, the main prospects for terminating the war have not been determined yet; and, the diplomatic way of resolving the conflict situation has not been successful.

Materials and Methods

The general scientific and special research methods have been used in the academic paper, in particular, as follows: methods of analysis, synthesis and scientific abstraction have been used in order to determine the essence of diplomatic relations of Ukraine with the European Union in the field of security and in accordance with the candidacy; identification of the main problematic aspects in the diplomatic relations of Ukraine with the countries of the European Union has been carried out by applying the method of analogies and comparison; studying the state, trends and dynamics of indicators that reflect the level of support of the European Union to Ukraine has been carried out on the basis of statistical and graphic methods; the generalization of the results of the conducted research has been carried out using the method of systematization.

The information base of the research consists of scientific developments of domestic and foreign scientists, reporting data of international and domestic organizations.

Results

Obtaining the status of a candidate for membership in the European Union by Ukraine has opened up significant prospects for the development of the country as an independent, sovereign and democratic state. However, the implementations of aspirations for full integration and the desire to join the European Union has provoked the opposition of the Russian Federation, which considered Ukraine to be a sphere of its own influence, which was manifested in the full-scale military invasion of the Russian army on the territory of Ukraine and in the large-scale destruction that the country suffered from.

On the very first day of the beginning of the Russia – Ukraine war, Ukraine has severed diplomatic relations with Russia and called on the member states of the European Union to provide assistance in order to retaliate against the aggressor. In turn, the European Union has condemned the actions of Russia and expressed concern about the violation of security on the European continent. As a result, the country has found itself in a situation in which fighting against the aggression of an enemy country requires significant financial resources. Needless to say, given the crisis state of the national economy, Ukraine cannot finance the war on its own.

Understanding the significant threat to the security situation on the European continent and Russia's statements about its ambitious plans to seize the territories of the post-Soviet countries, the European Union has taken the decision to provide the maximum possible support to Ukraine and ensure its needs in deterring the enemy. It should be noted that significant amounts of financial resources in the form of grants and loans were provided not only by the countries of the European Union, but also by the USA, Great Britain, Canada and Japan. In addition, Ukraine received significant support from international financial organizations, in particular, from the World Bank, the European Investment Bank and the International Monetary Fund. The total amount of financial assistance to Ukraine in the conditions of the war with the Russian Federation in 2022 in terms of funding sources is reflected in Figure 1.

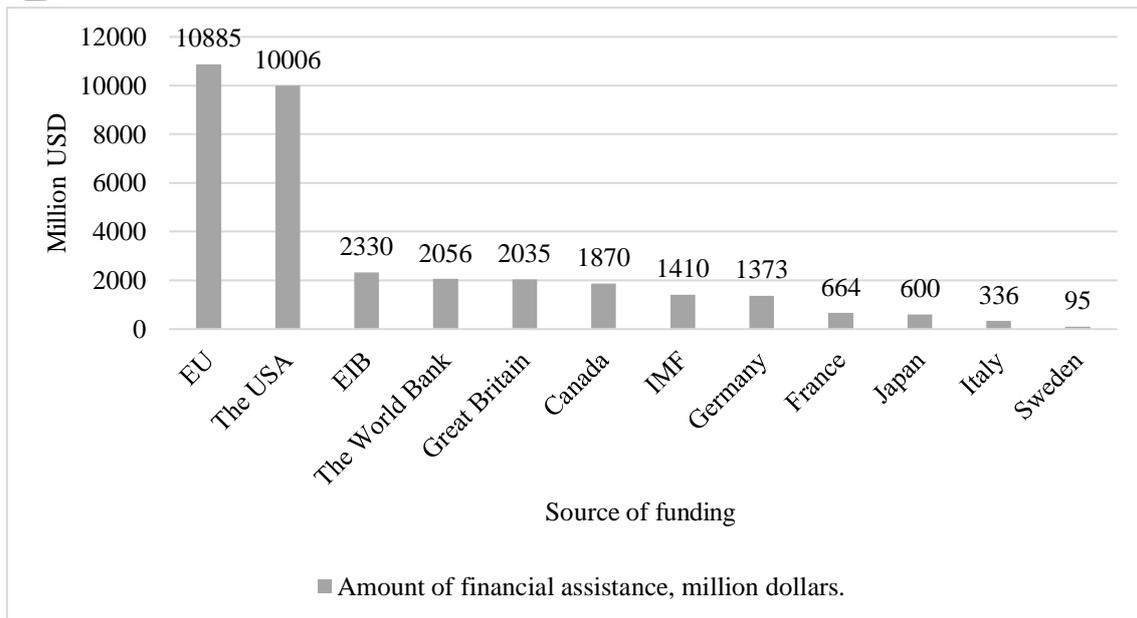


Figure 1. Amounts of financial assistance to Ukraine in the conditions of a war with the Russian Federation in 2022.

Source: it has been compiled based on: Samoiluk (2022).

As evidenced by the results of the conducted research, the largest amounts of financial aid to Ukraine have been planned by the European Union (10 885 million USD) and the United States (10 006 million USD). It should be noted that 90% of the amount of financial assistance from the USA is in the form of grants, and the European Union finances the needs of Ukraine under the terms and conditions of lending with preferential terms. It is obvious that the given amounts of funding are auxiliary and due to the need caused by the war.

At the same time, it should be noted that the investment attractiveness of Ukraine has significantly decreased since the beginning of the military conflict in the East of Ukraine in the period of 2015–2020 (Figure 2), which is evidenced by the rather low volumes of direct investments in Ukraine from the European Union. This is due to the high degree of risk for European investors to invest in conflict zones, where it is extremely difficult to ensure the appropriate level of security of business and invested capital, and the unpredictable possibility of escalation of armed confrontation and

aggression significantly restrains the possibility of investment activities.

The features of Ukraine’s diplomatic relations with the European Union and their security cooperation depend on numerous destabilizing factors, from among which the following ones should be highlighted as the most dangerous, namely: the geopolitical processes in Europe and the world, the complex security situation in the middle of the European Union, as well as the war in Ukraine, which is the most significant factor in disrupting global economic stability.

The establishment of constructive regional cooperation of Ukraine with neighbouring countries is equally important and the continuation of the implementation of cross-border cooperation programs with the European Union, which are financed by the latter, namely in the format as follows:

- 1) Poland – Belarus – Ukraine;
- 2) Hungary – Slovakia – Romania – Ukraine;
- 3) Romania – Ukraine;
- 4) The Danube Transnational Programme.

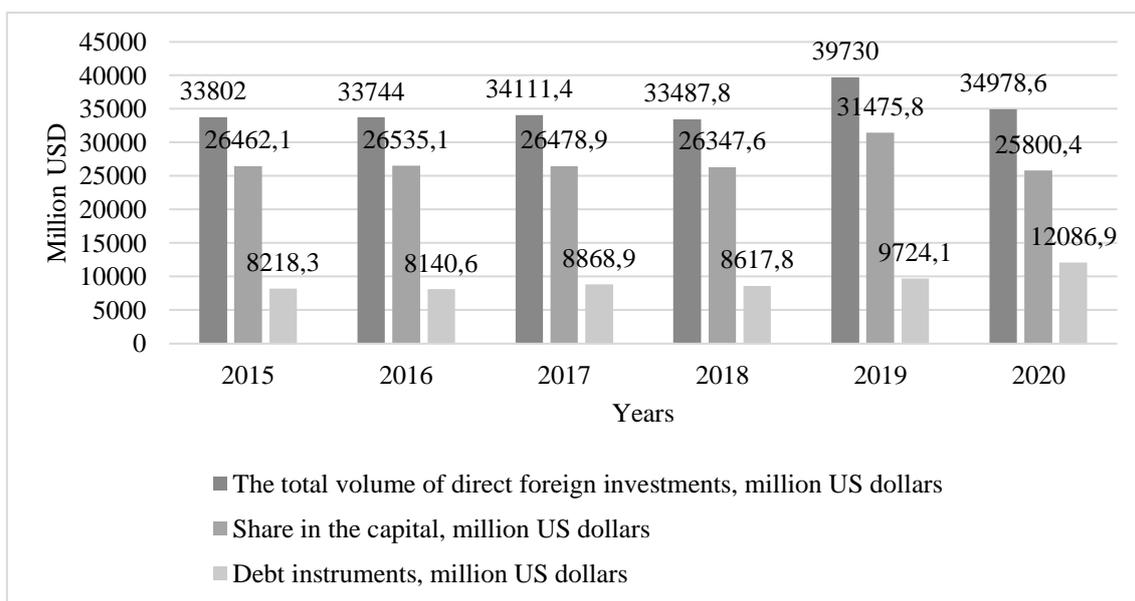


Figure 2. Dynamics of the volume of direct investments in Ukraine from the European Union in 2015–2020.

Source: it has been compiled based on: Samoiluk (2022).

However, if in relation to the second, third and fourth programs no problematic aspects have been recorded, then regarding the first one, there are a number of issues related to the position of Belarus and its attitude to the escalation of military aggression on the territory of Ukraine. Taking into account the significant list of sanctions introduced by the European Union against Belarus, the existing format of diplomatic relations with Belarus cannot be implemented, but requires significant modification and review.

In this context, the creation of new formats of regional cooperation by Ukraine turns out to be justified; in particular, the expediency of strengthening diplomatic relations within the framework of the so-called “Lublin Triangle”, which has begun its operation in 2020 with the participation of Ukraine, Poland and Lithuania, is actualized. We consider it quite acceptable to expand the boundaries of such international cooperation by joining Latvia and Estonia, one of the aspects of diplomatic relations between which should be the deepening of cooperation in the field of ensuring regional security.

In addition, the issue of ensuring peace and security in the world and especially on the European continent, which depend on the behaviour of the Russian Federation in relation to Ukraine and its influence on the world community, remains unresolved. In order to find effective methods for the implementation of the

specified aspirations by the European Union and a quick resolution of the Ukrainian-Russian conflict, a list of principles of interaction between the European Union and the aggressor country has been formed, which is systematized in Figure 3.

Summarizing the principles of the interaction of the European Union with Russia in the conditions of the war in Ukraine makes it possible to single out certain features; in particular, it is worth noting the active support of the European Union for the principles of democracy and the desire for a peaceful resolution of the military conflict. At the same time, it stands to mention the introduction of a strict sanctions policy against the Russian Federation and the restriction of its access to international systems, as well as the intensification of activities related to the search for new formats for the establishment of diplomatic relations in the field of security.

It is obvious that ensuring peace and security is a priority direction in developing diplomatic relations between Ukraine and the European Union. With the aim of bringing Ukraine closer to the European community, a number of unprecedented decisions were made, as a result of which Ukraine, under a simplified procedure, has acquired the status of a candidate for membership in the European Union and received benefits and preferences in the field of financing basic and additional needs.

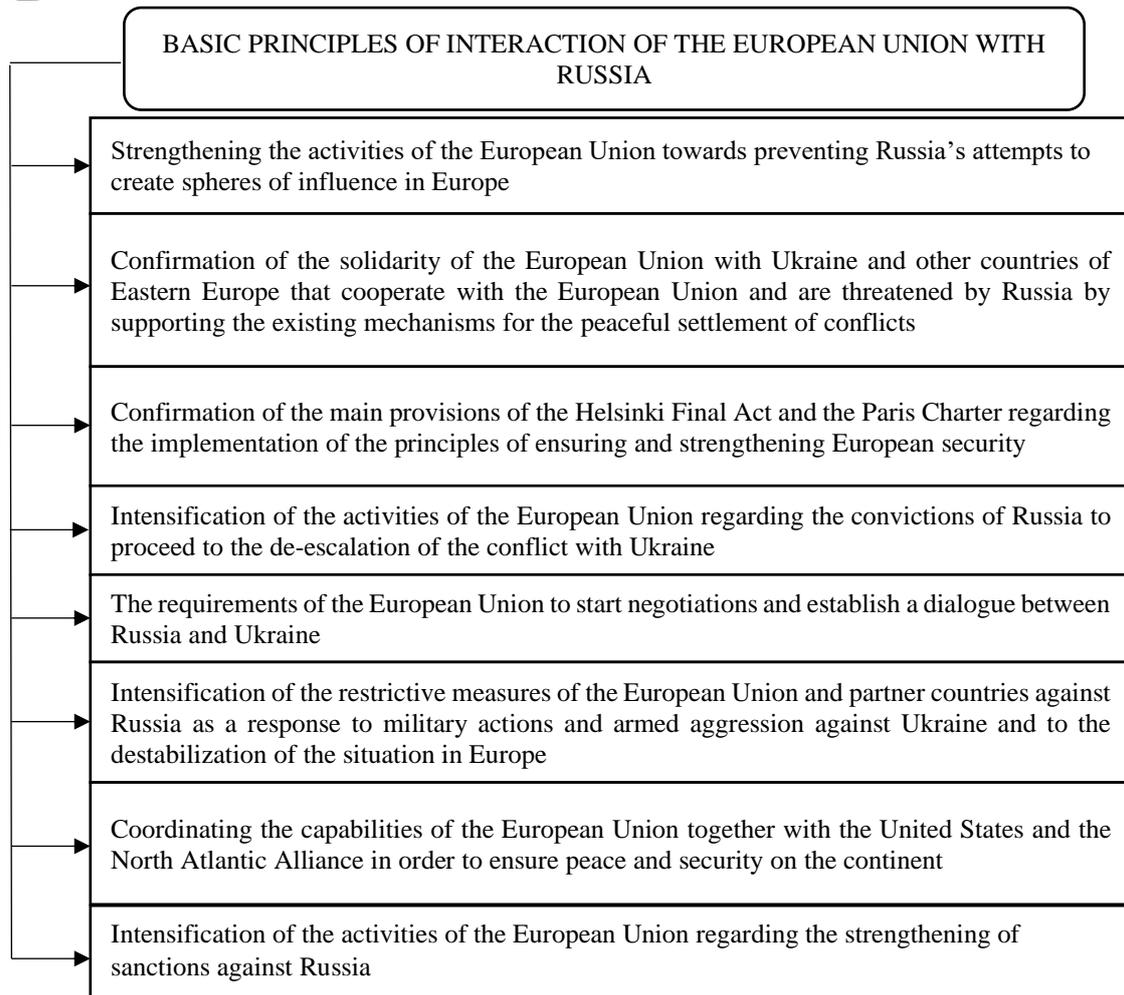


Figure 3. The basic principles of the interaction of the European Union with Russia in the conditions of increasing challenges and the danger of war in Ukraine.

Source: author's development.

Discussion

Scientific studies of diplomatic relations of Ukraine with the European Union in the field of security and in accordance with the candidacy are in the centre of attention of the scientific community, and the specifics of their development in the conditions of the war of the Russian Federation with Ukraine, at the moment, are not sufficiently covered and fully disclosed. It is obvious that the challenges, threats and dangers caused by Russia's military invasion have led to the destabilization of the security situation in the whole world and caused the need to review the existing approaches to ensuring international security. Staying of Ukraine in the so-called "grey zone" of international relations, in the role of a mediator between peace and war, causes additional obstacles for the rapid resolution of conflict situations, under which Russia turns into an aggressor country that terrorizes the whole world with its threats to use

nuclear weapons, and the establishment of its own spheres of influence in Europe. Under such conditions, the following situation is observed: Ukraine is unable to independently resist the armed pressure of Russia and requires the help of highly developed countries in obtaining defensive weapons, forasmuch the acquisition of offensive weapons is limited by the principles of the functioning of the European Union and NATO. At the same time, it is worth recognizing that Ukraine's security depends significantly on the strengthening of European security, and in all its dimensions.

Undoubtedly, under the circumstances prevailing in Europe, the European Union has faced a crisis of the security system and the unreliability of the mechanisms for deterring military aggression. Taking into account the outlined tendencies, a number of challenges, threats and risks have been formed in the European community, leading to the deepening of security instability and causing

the emergence of destabilizing factors, in particular as follows:

- 1) the presence of unresolved disagreements, conflict situations and frozen conflicts;
- 2) international rivalry for obtaining access to resources and control over logistics routes;
- 3) the danger of spreading weapons of mass destruction;
- 4) intensification of the development of regional separatism, terrorism, extremism, religious and ethnic confrontation.

The strengthening of the influence of the above-mentioned destabilizing factors, supplemented by the problems of armed aggression of Russia against Ukraine, requires the search for effective ways and methods of solving the crisis security situation in Europe in order to establish effective diplomatic relations in the field of security based on the principles of democracy, mutual respect and international cooperation.

Conclusions

Thus, the obtained results of the conducted studies of diplomatic relations of Ukraine with the European Union in the field of security and in accordance with the application make it possible to state that the issue of ensuring security on the European continent has become extremely acute and requires an immediate and balanced solution, which becomes possible by building an effective interstate diplomatic dialogue. It has been established that the diplomatic relations of Ukraine with the European Union in the field of security and in accordance with the candidacy are the main form of interstate support in accordance with the norms of international law and the practice of conducting international dialogue in the field of security and maintaining international peace. It is obvious that the diplomatic relations of Ukraine with the European Union in the field of security and in accordance with the candidacy in the conditions of 2022 are characterized as the cornerstone of the world system of interstate relations in the field of implementation of the international legal capacity and competence of states. It has been revealed that the Russian Federation considers Ukraine a sphere of its own influence and makes maximum efforts to establish control over it, using forcible methods. It has been proven that the diplomatic relations of Ukraine with the European Union are characterized by loyalty, efficiency and a high level of multilateral support for Ukraine, which is confirmed, in particular, by the highest volumes of financial assistance provided by the European Union and the unprecedented decision

to grant Ukraine the status of a candidate for EU membership.

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