

## ON THE ISSUE OF THE EURO-ATLANTIC INTEGRATION OF UKRAINE

**Problem setting** Strategically Ukraine belongs to Europe. Relations between the North Atlantic Alliance (NATO) have strategic importance for ensuring peace and security in the Euro-Atlantic space. So rationale for close cooperation between NATO and Ukraine is important for keeping peace in Ukraine in conditions of the war with Russia.

**Recent research and publications analysis** For the last time, scientists in their works examined the question of relations between Ukraine and NATO, in particular, V. Horbulin, V. Hrechaniinov, O. Zarubinskyi, Yu. Moroz, V. Ohryzko, O. Palii, Yu. Surmin, O. Shamshur. During the period to 2010 there were covered the facts of Ukraine's cooperation with NATO, and in subsequent years, with the proclamation of Ukraine as non-aligned state, the criticism of the Alliance began. Only in the last period, after the overthrow of Yanukovych, publications substantiate the need to abolish the non-aligned status and accession to NATO. But this need requires more arguments.

**Paper objective** The article is aimed at justification for Euro-Atlantic integration of Ukraine in order to guarantee its national security.

**Paper main body** The development of relations between Ukraine and NATO began with the participation of Ukraine in January 1992 in the North Atlantic Cooperation Council and subsequently moved into the sphere of direct contacts. In February 1992, the visit of NATO Secretary General M. Verner to Kyiv, and on July 8 of that year, headquarters of NATO in Brussels were visited by the President of Ukraine Leonid Kravchuk. Since then, contacts between Ukraine and NATO have become permanent.

Ukraine became the first country among the former Soviet republics, which in February 1994 joined the program of cooperation with NATO "Partnership for Peace", and the same year its military officers began to participate in exercises and other activities of the program.

Despite the successful development of cooperation with NATO, in 1995 Ukraine put forward the issue of establishing special relations with NATO. The Ukrainian initiative was supported, and on September 14, 1995 a Joint Statement of Ukraine and NATO for the press appeared, where further strengthening of large-scale relations between Ukraine and NATO was announced, including in-depth development of relations within and outside the PFP program and activities of NACC. This event marked the beginning of a new phase in cooperation between Ukraine and NATO.

**Conclusions and prospects for further research** The transformation processes taking place in NATO prove the viability of the organization, maintaining and even

strengthening its role in the new conditions of international security. The willingness of NATO to protect peace and common civilization values throughout the Euro-Atlantic space, its efforts in cooperation with other states in the area of security, can be extremely effective factors in ensuring sustainable development and world peace.