

Streszczenie w języku angielskim

The post-Soviet area occupies a special place in the foreign policy of the Russian Federation. Its main objective is to deepen cooperation with the former Soviet republics, both in a bilateral dimension, through strengthening of the political bonds and development of economic and trade relations, as well as on multilateral level, within the framework of established integration structures (e.g. the Commonwealth of Independent States and the Eurasian Economic Union). Striving to achieve this, and thus aiming to strengthen its own position in the region, Russian authorities refer to various types of instruments, including means of exerting pressure, such as increasing the prices of gas and using military power. These tools are applied to the greatest extent against those countries that want to deepen European integration. After enlargement in 2004, the European Union had begun to pay more attention to the need of intensifying cooperation with neighboring countries and supporting their internal reforms, in order to strengthen European security. For this purpose, the European Neighborhood Policy was established, and later the Eastern Partnership program was created for six countries – Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine. Its main goal is to intensify cooperation between the EU and those countries, including by signing association agreements and creation of the free trade areas. Therefore, a question arises about Russia's, which recognizes the post-Soviet area as a priority direction of foreign policy, stand to the rapprochement of these countries with the EU. Research shows that the Russian authorities – guided by realistic goals of maintaining control over the post-Soviet area – perceive the eastern dimension of the European Neighborhood Policy, and above all the signing of association agreements and the establishment of the free trade areas between the EU and Ukraine, Georgia and Moldova as a threat to their own interests in the region.