The issue of the durability of alliances in a state’s foreign and security policy. An attempt to sketch out some important conclusions for Poland

The article attempts to analyse the issue of the durability of alliances in a state’s foreign and security policy, applying the concept of ‘the political’, articulated by Carl Schmitt. On the basis of observations performed in this manner, an appraisal of the political and military actions in which Poland has participated as a member of NATO and the European Union is then carried out.

The first part of the article scrutinises the concept of ‘durability of alliances’ which, when applied to the foreign policy and security sphere, is of a very relative nature. It is accompanied by deliberations on the concept of a skill on the part of states to designate and acquire allies in an unsteady international environment, as well as on the legitimacy of connecting capabilities of that type with the very essence of statehood, along the lines of the theoretical assumptions presented by Carl Schmitt.

An analysis of the foreign and security policies conducted by Poland is then presented, where the author appraises them from the point of view of the skilful designating of allies and correct identification of threats in the international sphere. A discussion of the impact exerted by the Polish security policy on the model of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Poland and the adequacy of their form as regards the factors which constitute a genuine challenge to the state’s policy, makes a significant contribution to this section.

The article concludes with a summary comprising the conclusions from the analyses performed and critically appraising the sense and usefulness of continuation of the trends apparent in national foreign and security policies hitherto. The summary also refers to the necessity of re-orientating opinions as to the absolute disjunction (competitive character) of the two basic directions in the process of working for the national interest in the international arena which have been observed in Poland.