

Ladies and Gentlemen!

Internal security is a broad concept encompassing many aspects of the functioning of the state and lives of its citizens. It includes, among other things, public, constitutional, social, cultural, informational, economic, environmental and cyber security. Ensuring internal security is one of the most important tasks and serves as the foundation for the stability of the Republic of Poland, enabling uninterrupted socio-economic development and strengthening the country's position on the international stage.

As an editor-in-chief of the 'Internal Security Review', my intention is to ensure that the content presented covers the broadest possible range of issues related to the area of security, that it remains diverse and that the topics addressed are relevant and up to date. Together with the authors, under the watchful eyes of the reviewers and members of the Academic Editorial Board, we will conduct analyses and assessments, and based on these, put forward recommendations. We know how crucial an informed and educated society is in ensuring security and preventing threats, which is why we want to share knowledge as broadly as possible. In addition to scientific articles, 'Internal Security Review' will publish interviews with experts as well as reports from workshops and scientific conferences on topics we find relevant. We also plan to continue publishing reviews of books related to security.

In this issue, Associate Professor Ilona Urych discusses the role of education from a systemic perspective. Her article is a critical reflection on educational programmes related to security at different levels of school education and in universities.

We are at a crucial point in terms of enhancing the resilience of the state and society. At the beginning of January 2025, a long-awaited Act on civil protection and civil defence came into force

in Poland. A book titled *Mechanisms of Civil Protection in Disaster Risk Reduction. Selected Issues*, edited by Fire Service officers: Paweł Gromek, Mariusz Feltynowski and Monika Wojakowska, is dedicated to the issues of civil security. Being familiar with this publication can help readers grasp the essence of civil protection in Poland, as Julia W. Tocicka, PhD, points out in her review. I encourage you to read it.

We are also expecting an amendment to the Act on crisis management that will include not only provisions of previously mentioned act, but will also introduce regulations concerning the EU civil protection mechanism and implement the Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on the resilience of critical entities – specifically, the CER Directive – into the Polish legal system. Consequently, the ‘Internal Security Review’ could not omit issues related to the Polish critical infrastructure. Its protection has been the subject of many debates in the country. In January this year, I participated in a conference *The Evolution of Law in Crisis Management and Critical Infrastructure Protection*. In an interview for the ‘Internal Security Review’, Ireneusz Jabłoński and Piotr Grzybowski from the Polish Institute of Internal Control, which organised the event, talk about good practices and challenges in this field. In turn, David Cybulski discussed cybersecurity challenges in the offshore and coastal energy sector, particularly in relation to Poland’s upcoming strategic energy projects in the Baltic Sea.

In this issue, we also dedicate considerable space to modern technologies. In the ‘Competition entries’ section, we present the article by Marta Grzywacz on the energy transition related to the shift to clean energy and the role of the hydrogen sector in maintaining the country’s economic security. Jarosław Przyjemczak, PhD, and Małgorzata Wolbach wrote about the possibilities of using modern technologies and tools to support the process of threat monitoring. This issue also came up in an interview with Cmdr. Sebastian Kalitowski, during which we talked about safeguarding Polish maritime zones, among other things, from hybrid threats posed by the Russian Federation. The theme of espionage and other foreign influences is also present in the article by Marek Klasa, PhD, and Michał Klasa, who describe the Russian ‘special military operation’ as a failed *coup de main*, and – in a historical context – in Szymon Główka’s contest paper analysing the intelligence and counterintelligence system in the Napoleonic France.

In recent years, much attention has been paid to the security of our borders. Łukasz Foryś, PhD, and Kornelia Stępień, PhD, analysed the impact of traffic control on combating cross-border crime. Security also involves countering extremist threats. Patryk Król described new anti-state movements in Poland, inspired by the US sovereign citizen movement, and presented proposals for preventive measures that could reduce the impact of these phenomena on Polish society.

I also encourage you to read the interview with Inspector Robert Żółkiewski, PhD, who spoke about the opportunities and possibilities offered by service in the uniformed forces. His interesting professional experiences may serve as encouragement for young people who wish to dedicate themselves to strengthening internal security of Poland.

I would like to thank the authors for presenting the results of their research efforts in the pages of the 'Internal Security Review', and the reviewers for their support in the substantive evaluation of the submitted content. I also extend my gratitude to the members of the newly established Academic Editorial Board and the editorial team.

Editor-in-Chief
Daria Olender, PhD