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Podoinitsyn Valerii,

Candidate of Juridical Sciences, Senior Researcher,

State Research Institute MIA Ukraine,

Kyiv, Ukraine,

ORCID ID 0000-0001-8874-1222

THE EUROPEAN UNION AND THE LAW OF ARMED CONFLICT

The article highlights some of the provisions and principles of the European Union (hereinafter – the EU) on the Law of Armed Conflict, which is otherwise known as International Humanitarian Law or the Law of War. The analysis of

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international law, as well as international agreements on laws and customs of war and international humanitarian law, which include sources of international law and international agreements such as the Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols, as well as multilateral agreements on laws and customs of war.

These agreements define the conduct and responsibilities of the warring parties and neutral states, as well as those involved in armed conflict, in relation to each other and to those in need of protection, usually by non-combatants. Some legal aspects of the activities, recruitment, formation and use of the EU armed forces, as well as EU civilian structures involved in peacekeeping and security operations conducted by the EU for, conflict prevention and strengthening international security are discussed.

Considered the functions, responsibilities and tasks of the following EU structures: The Common Security and Defense Policy, CSDP and Common Foreign and Security Policy, CFSP, as well as the problems facing these units. The Political and Security Committee manages these structures. It also lists some issues that fall within the remit of the EU's Political and Security Committee.

The article notes that reservations (i.e., when EU member-states have not fully acceded to treaties) entail disagreements, including disagreements even when treaties ratified by all EU member-states. Moreover, divergent legal views can reinforce the EU's policy choices.

The CSDP, for example, tries to reach a common view on certain points, at least on policy issues. To help this, an EU Military Committee working group can meet in a format backed up by legal experts, if necessary (e.g., when considering the concept of the use of EU military force).

It was concluded, that the main mission of the EU is the rule of law and the need to ensure activities that meet international standards related to human rights and gender integration, as well as limiting and regulating the means and methods of warfare.

Keywords: EU, Law of Armed Conflict, humanitarian law, EU armed forces, EU member states, security policy.

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