

JOINT COMMUNIQUÉ
OF THE BALTIC DEFENCE COOPERATION MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE

22 May 2024

Palanga, Lithuania

The Minister of Defence of the Republic of Estonia, the Minister of Defence of the Republic of Latvia, the Minister of National Defence of the Republic of Lithuania, as the Ministerial Committee (MC),

Having met on 21-22 May, in Palanga, Lithuania,

1. Reiterated the importance of close Baltic States' cooperation in security and defence to further strengthen collective deterrence and defence in the region.
2. Stressed that Russia is and will remain the most significant long-term threat to Euro-Atlantic security and particularly to the Baltic States.
3. Condemned in the strongest terms Russia's war against Ukraine and reaffirmed commitment of each Baltic State to allocate at least 0.25% of GDP annually to the security and defence of Ukraine. The Ministers emphasized the need for Allied nations to allocate at least the same level of annual GDP to support Ukraine.
4. Highlighted the work done to support Ukraine under IT, Demining and Drone Coalitions and emphasized the importance to continue supporting Ukraine via the established Ukraine Defence Contact Group capability coalitions.
5. Emphasized the need to accelerate and expand military support to Ukraine focusing on the most urgent priorities such as air defence, ammunition and drone capabilities.
6. Underlined the importance of increased investments into the European defence industry and the requirement to rapidly expand production of defence equipment and ammunition, especially to the EU frontline member states bordering Russia.
7. Reiterated Ukraine's future integration into NATO and the EU, and that the Baltic States will continue to support Ukraine in this regard.
8. Welcomed Sweden's accession to NATO as it significantly increases the security of the Baltic Sea region and the Alliance as a whole.
9. Highlighted the critical role enablement plays for the reinforcement and sustainment of Allied forces in case of crisis or war and acknowledged achievements of the Baltic States' cooperation, in particular in the field of military mobility. The Ministers agreed to further enhance cooperation in logistics, Host Nation Support, fuel supply and other areas of enablement.
10. Emphasized the importance of investments into infrastructure required for military mobility and further coordination of efforts with other NATO allies.
11. Acknowledged the progress made in enhancing NATO's Forward Defence, including increased presence of NATO troops by developing Allied forces in the Baltic States.
12. Highlighted the importance of ongoing adaptation of NATO's collective defence and the necessity to demonstrate increased Allied readiness during the NATO Washington Summit, particularly in regard to defence spending, capability development and

- executability of the defence plans, including establishment of effective NATO C2 structure.
13. Stressed the importance of Baltic States' Allied Capability Delivery Commitment initiative as the NATO Washington Summit deliverable, which focuses on European Allies and Canada rapidly delivering their fair share of the most critical capabilities in short-term necessary for the executability of NATO's new defence plans, while ensuring the fair burden sharing among Allies and avoiding unbalanced requirements for frontline states.
 14. Underlined the importance of the Integrated Air and Missile Defence at the NATO Washington Summit, and commitments on implementation of NATO's Rotational Air Defence Model aimed to enable rapid transition from peacetime to crisis and conflict.
 15. Reiterated the importance of continued U.S. defence assistance, including the Baltic Security Assistance Initiative, and investments that greatly benefit the Baltic States in developing national and regional defence capabilities.
 16. Stressed the importance of continuous U.S. heel-to-toe military presence in the Baltic States.
 17. Emphasized the Baltic States' already ongoing efforts to enhance national defence capabilities, and reaffirmed the importance of investing at least 3% of GDP to strengthen national defence.
 18. Highlighted the work done to establish the Baltic Defence Line as a set of counter-mobility measures in order to deny the adversary advancement into the depth of the Baltic States and thus block the enemy's advance from the first centimetre.
 19. Pledged to continue to strengthen national and joint capabilities development to ensure executability and interoperability within the Baltic States, as well as identify new potential joint capability projects.
 20. Agreed on strengthening cooperation among the Baltic States' Special Operation Forces to address regional threats in a collective way.
 21. Agreed on the importance of Baltic States' common efforts in naval cooperation and capabilities development, in particular in regard to Maritime Situational Awareness project and Naval Vision 2030+ initiative.

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Laurynas KASČIŪNAS

Andris SPRŪDS

Minister of Defence

Republic of Estonia

22 May 2024

Minister of National Defence

Republic of Lithuania

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Minister of Defence

Republic of Latvia

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