

**JOINT COMMUNIQUÉ**  
**OF THE BALTIC DEFENCE COOPERATION MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE**

**23 May 2025**

**Ämari, Estonia**

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 22-23 May, in Ämari, Estonia,

1. Reiterated the importance of close Baltic States' co-operation to further strengthen deterrence and collective defence in the region.
2. Emphasised that Russia remains a long-term threat to the Baltic States, Europe and NATO as a whole.
3. Reiterated their ambition to increase defence spending to 5% of GDP from 2026.
4. Agreed that the primary objective of the NATO Hague Summit is to reaffirm the transatlantic bond and to demonstrate Allied solidarity and unity. Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania lead by example to encourage European NATO Allies' enhanced contributions to NATO's collective defence.
5. Underlined the need to increase NATO defence spending target to 5% of GDP to urgently deliver on NATO Capability Targets, including the most critical capabilities in the short term, in order to support NATO's defence plans and strengthen collective defence.
6. Underlined the importance of the US-Baltic strategic cooperation while emphasising the importance of continued US force posture in the Baltic States.
7. Expressed our gratitude to the Allies currently deployed on the Eastern Flank who are helping us ensure the everyday security of NATO's Eastern borders in maritime, land and air domains.
8. Reiterated our support towards the full restoration of Ukraine's territorial integrity and sovereignty through diplomatic or military means.
9. Stressed the need for Allies to accelerate military support to achieve Ukraine's victory and reaffirmed the commitment of each Baltic State to allocate at least 0.25% of GDP annually to the security and defence of Ukraine.
10. Reiterated our commitment to support Ukraine after the ceasefire is reached, including by being ready to contribute to the Coalition of willing for ensuring lasting peace in Ukraine.
11. Welcomed the progress made in supporting Ukraine through the Demining, Drone and IT coalitions and reaffirmed our commitment to lead the aforementioned coalitions.
12. Emphasised the role of Baltic Defence Line as a key framework for securing NATO and EU's eastern flank and in this regard, approved the general concept of the Baltic Defence Line on using EU's regulatory and financial tools.

13. Underlined the need to strengthen cooperation between 3B defence industries in order to enhance regional security and strategic interoperability.
14. Emphasised the continued need for coordination concerning the protection of critical undersea infrastructure as well as establishing an integrated maritime picture, while acknowledging the threat invoked by Russia's aggressive actions in the Baltic Sea and its shadow fleet.
15. Underlined the importance of enhancing NATO's Integrated Air and Missile Defence, including against the air threats posed by Russia.
16. Reaffirmed the importance of NATO's Air Policing in the Baltic States and the Rotational Air Defence model and encourage Allies to contribute in these frameworks.
17. Emphasised the importance of investing in the infrastructure required for military mobility as well as further coordinating efforts with NATO and the EU.
18. Committed to further strengthening national and joint capability development and joint procurement to improve operational capability and interoperability within the Baltic States and to identify new potential joint procurement projects.

Dovilė ŠAKALIENĖ

Hanno PEVKUR

Andris SPRŪDS

Minister of National Defence

Republic of Lithuania

23 May 2025

Minister of Defence

Republic of Estonia

23 May 2025

Minister of Defence

Republic of Latvia

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