

JOINT COMMUNIQUÉ
OF THE BALTIC DEFENCE COOPERATION MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE
30 January 2026
Tallinn, 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 29-30 January, in Tallinn, Estonia,

1. Reiterated the importance of close Baltic States' co-operation to further strengthen deterrence and collective defence in the region.
2. Signed the Letter of Intent concerning cooperation in the establishment of a Baltic Regional Military Mobility Area in order to enable seamless movement of military assets and personnel in times of peace, crisis and war.
3. Emphasised the long-term threat posed by Russia to the Euro-Atlantic security.
4. Echoed the United States of America that Europe must do more for its defence, and underlined the need to rapidly deliver on the historic agreement reached at the NATO Summit in the Hague to invest 5% of GDP on defence. Together, Baltic States are meeting the 5% commitment already in 2026, investing in military capabilities.
5. Stressed the need for all Allies to urgently deliver on their NATO Capability Targets, in order to support NATO's defence plans and strengthen the Alliance's collective defence, lethality and warfighting readiness.
6. Expressed gratitude to all Allies contributing to NATO's Forward Land Forces in the Baltic States, helping to ensure a credible forward defence posture.
7. Reaffirmed the importance of continued U.S.-Baltic strategic co-operation and expressed deep appreciation for U.S. security assistance to the Baltic States, which has significantly enhanced the interoperability of our forces, strengthened defence readiness and warfighting capabilities, and strongly advanced U.S.-Baltic defence industrial co-operation.
8. Emphasised the significant deterrence value of a continued rotational U.S. military presence in the Baltic States, as well as its critical role in filling key capability gaps, and reiterated our full readiness to continue providing the highest standard of Host Nation Support to U.S. forces.
9. Expressed gratitude to all Allies contributing to NATO's Air Policing and the Rotational Air Defence Model and reaffirmed that it is critical to continue with such deployments in the future.
10. In light of increasing airspace violations, underlined the importance of further strengthening NATO's Integrated Air and Missile Defence in the Baltic region and against all air threats.
11. Highlighted the continued importance of NATO's Baltic Sentry for coordinating regional activity and deterring attacks against critical undersea infrastructure.

12. Reiterated our support towards Ukraine against Russia's war of aggression, whereby Ukraine's territorial integrity and sovereignty are fully restored and respected.
13. Stressed the need for NATO Allies and EU Member States to sustain and increase military support to Ukraine, including through NATO's Prioritised Ukraine Requirements List, and reaffirmed the commitment of each Baltic State to allocate at least 0.25% of GDP annually to the security and defence of Ukraine.
14. Reiterated commitment to support Ukraine after the ceasefire is reached, including by allocating capabilities to the Coalition of the Willing for ensuring lasting peace in Ukraine.
15. Welcomed the progress made in supporting Ukraine through the Demining, Drone and IT coalitions and reaffirmed commitment to lead the aforementioned coalitions.
16. Emphasised the role of Baltic Defence Line as a key framework for securing NATO and EU's Eastern Flank.
17. Highlighted the importance of close co-operation and coordination of positions within the EU, to ensure the increase of Europe's defence readiness, including by the prominent growth of defence budget within the next Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF).
18. Welcomed the European Commission's ReArm proposals, stressing the commitment of each country to use different options, including SAFE loan instrument, for rapidly increasing the defence readiness in the region.
19. Expressed support to the Eastern Flank Watch Flagship project, at the same time emphasising the need to use different EU budgetary instruments in the current and in the next MFF, starting the European Defence Industry Programme, and the cruciality of its interoperability within NATO, including embeddedness in NATO command and control system, as well as with other flagship projects.
20. Reiterated the urgent need to strengthen co-operation between 3B defence industries in order to enhance regional security and strategic interoperability, including defence research and development according to the military requirements.
21. Expressed openness to strengthen national and joint capability development, including joint procurement in identified projects, to improve operational capability and interoperability within the Baltic States.
22. Expressed gratitude to Estonia for the Chairmanship of the Baltic Defence Cooperation in 2025 and welcomed Latvia as the new Chairman in 2026.

Robertas KAUNAS

Hanno PEVKUR

Andris SPRŪDS

Minister of National Defence
Republic of Lithuania
30 January 2026

Minister of Defence
Republic of Estonia
30 January 2026

Minister of Defence
Republic of Latvia
30 January 2026