

JOINT COMMUNIQUÉ  
OF THE MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE  
May 7, 2010  
Vilnius, 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 in Vilnius, Lithuania on May 6-7, 2010,

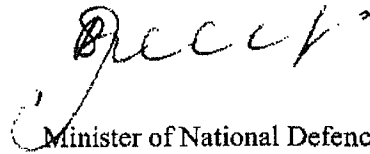
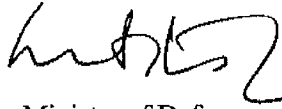
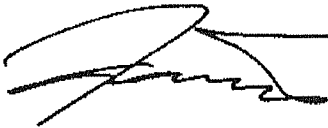
1. Expressed their deepest and sincerest condolences to the Polish Minister of Defence and the Polish military on the tragic deaths of their Commander in Chief, Armed Service Chiefs and other military personnel who were travelling to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the Katyn massacre;
2. Stressed that NATO's new Strategic Concept should strengthen solidarity, and mutual commitment amongst Allies. Ministers expressed their gratitude to Ambassador Aivis Ronis for his contribution to the work of the Group of Experts in preparing NATO's new Strategic Concept;
3. Reaffirmed that NATO must remain an effective collective defence and credible deterrence alliance reinforcing equal security guarantees within the Alliance. The core principle of the Alliance – collective defence – must remain unchanged and practical instruments for the reassurance of the Allies must be ensured;
4. Emphasised that NATO's nuclear capability remains indispensable for the Euro-Atlantic security architecture. An appropriate mix of nuclear and conventional capabilities based in Europe ensures credible deterrence of the Alliance;
5. Welcomed the continued NATO Air Policing mission in the Baltic States and the contribution of NATO Allies to the mission, and reaffirmed their commitment to further enhance training capabilities and Host Nation Support (HNS) for the Allies participating in the mission;
6. Reiterated the importance of conducting routine NATO, multilateral and US and Baltic States' quadrilateral military exercises in the Baltic region on a regular basis;
7. Underlined the necessity for the Baltic states to continue aiming for 2 per cent of GDP allocated to defence expenditures in order to remain reliable and committed NATO members;
8. Underscored the need for broader consultations among NATO and the EU nations on sensitive issues like transfer of strategically important military technology and equipment to third countries;
9. Highlighted the importance of the further implementation of the Lisbon Treaty as a tool for the reinforcement of the European Union Common Security and Defence Policy and solidarity among the European Union member states;
10. Stressed the need to enhance defence cooperation between Nordic and Baltic countries and expressed their readiness to use best practises and existing projects for further enhanced cooperation on security and defence;
11. Underlined the need to strengthen defence links between the Baltic States and Poland;

12. Stated that the BALTDEFCOL 10th Anniversary Review Process that started from a corresponding Review Report has reached the conclusive phase with the signing of the new Development Plan, which was drafted in order to facilitate the continued contribution of BALTDEFCOL's Participating Nations; the changes outlined in the Development Plan will be formalised by amending the BALTDEFCOL MoU. Encouraged the Participating Nations and all NATO and EU states to continue to actively participate in the work of the BALTDEFCOL.

Jaak AAVIKSOO

Imants LIEĢIS

Rasa JUKNEVIČIENĒ



Minister of Defence  
Republic of Estonia

Minister of Defence  
Republic of Latvia

Minister of National Defence  
Republic of Lithuania

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