

JOINT COMMUNIQUÉ  
OF THE MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE

May 26, 2011  
Liepāja, Latvia

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 Liepāja, Latvia on May 25-26, 2011,

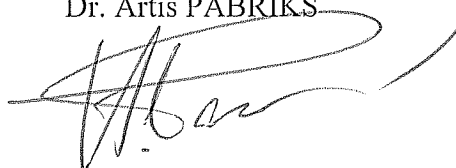
1. Underlined the need to work towards Baltic states' defence integration and explore further areas of common interests, including more interaction in defence planning process;
2. Reaffirmed their commitment to seek the continuation of NATO Air Policing mission from 2015 onward as a manifestation of smart defence and Alliance's commitment and solidarity. As a part of their contribution the Baltic states will substantially increase Host Nation Support to this mission;
3. Recognized the need to review current framework of Baltic defence cooperation with an aim to make it compatible with NORDEFECO and further facilitate cooperation between Nordic and Baltic countries;
4. Welcomed the NORDEFECO practical cooperation proposals to the Baltic states as a positive initiative;
5. Reaffirmed the importance of successful transition process in Afghanistan, which in 2014 should result in a NATO engagement that is more focused on mentoring and training tasks. It is important to maintain unity and solidarity of the Alliance during this process;
6. Underlined the need to proceed with the NATO reform package and capability development process in the upcoming NATO Defence Ministers' meeting in a way that strengthens Alliance's ability to perform NATO core tasks. These reforms should result in a more efficient NATO command structure with robust regional focus;
7. Stressed that NATO cyber defence policy should give NATO proper tools to tackle growing scope of cyber threats;
8. Reiterated the importance to strive for the NATO benchmark of 2% of GDP allocated for defence spending;
9. Expressed concern on security situation and continued violence against civil population in Libya and underlined the importance of NATO operation Unified Protector as part of international efforts to support implementation of UN resolutions 1970 and 1973.

Mart LAAR



Minister of Defence  
Republic of Estonia

Dr. Artis PABRIKS



Deputy Prime Minister,  
Minister of Defence  
Republic of Latvia

Rasa JUKNEVIČIENĒ



Minister of National Defence  
Republic of Lithuania

Date:

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