

JOINT COMMUNIQUÉ  
OF THE MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE  
December 2, 2011  
Kaunas, Lithuania

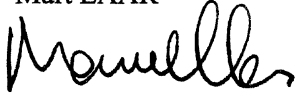
The Minister of Defence of the Republic of Estonia, the Minister of Defence of the Republic of Latvia, the Minister of National Defence of the Republic of Lithuania, as the Ministerial Committee (MC),

Having met in Kaunas, Lithuania on December 1-2, 2011,

1. Underscored the Baltic defence integration as an important element of their national defence and agreed to further initiatives in the areas of joint procurement, training, capabilities and common contribution to NATO Response Force;
2. Highlighted the progress made in Nordic-Baltic defence co-operation and reiterated their interest to continue Nordic-Baltic defence integration. Underlined that extended Nordic-Baltic Defence Ministerial meetings together with participation of Poland, Germany, the Netherlands, the UK and the US bring added value for enhancing cooperation in a mutually beneficial way;
3. Emphasised the need for NATO to continue the activities aimed at enhancing the conventional and nuclear deterrence of the Alliance. The US presence in Europe remains a visible and strong guarantee of the transatlantic link and an indispensable component of NATO's defence and deterrence posture;
4. Highlighted that Chicago Summit in 2012 will be crucial for NATO where, among other things, Baltic states will seek a long-term continuation for the Baltic Air Policing Mission. Repeated the commitment to implement the enhanced host nation support package with the aim to decrease the costs of Allies contributing to NATO Air Policing mission;
5. Stressed the importance of regional cooperation and coordinated activities in the field of cyber security and energy security; expressed support for Lithuanian efforts to accredit Lithuanian Energy Security Centre as NATO Centre of Excellence and called upon NATO allies to contribute to NATO cyber defence centre of excellence in Tallinn;
6. Emphasised that regular NATO exercises in the Baltic region, for instance STEADFAST JAZZ 2013, are a significant contribution to visible assurance. Congratulated the success of the recent NATO Crisis Management Exercise 2011 and NATO Response Force exercise Steadfast Juncture 2011 and welcomed the work accomplished to integrate the Baltic Host into the NATO Training Schedule;
7. Stressed the need to remain committed to contributing to Afghanistan for as long as necessary to support handover of security responsibility and capability building;
8. Underscored the importance for Latvia and Lithuania to continue aiming for and for Estonia to maintain the level of 2% of GDP allocated to defence expenditures in order to ensure the implementation of necessary defence reforms and keep commitments to NATO;
9. Agreed to launch Baltic training initiative with the aim of increasing efficiency and specialisation of Baltic training facilities;

10. Stressed the need to coordinate Baltic national contributions to NATO Response Force as well as to work towards contributing substantially on regular basis;
11. Welcomed Lithuanian and Latvian initiative to launch Special Operations Forces (SOF) cooperation. All three Baltic states will contribute SOF units to ISAF in 2012:
12. Agreed to initiate the altering of the Protocol between Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania concerning the Status of the Baltic Defence College and its personnel in order to facilitate wider international, especially Nordic, participation in the Baltic Defence College.

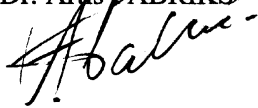
Mart LAAR



Minister of Defence  
Republic of Estonia

Date: 2011/12/02

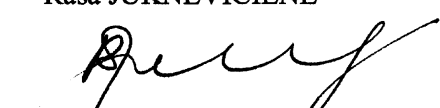
Dr. Artis PABRIKS



Minister of Defence  
Republic of Latvia

Date: 2011/12/02

Rasa JUKNEVIČIENĒ



Minister of National Defence  
Republic of Lithuania

Date: 2011 12 02