

JOINT COMMUNIQUÉ  
OF THE MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE  
May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2014  
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),

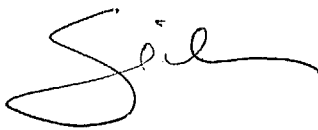
Recognising the added value of exchanging information and sharing assessments on the security situation in the region, and the coordination of Baltic states' strategic positions in NATO, the EU and other international organisations,

Having met in Tallinn, Estonia on May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2014,

1. Welcomed NATO's reassurance measures;
2. Underscored the need for the upcoming NATO Summit in Wales to reaffirm collective defence as its core task and Allies' commitment to reassurance and deterrence measures reflecting the changed security situation;
3. Welcomed the reinforced Baltic Air Policing Mission as an excellent example of Alliance's continued and visible commitment to collective defence;
4. Welcomed the decisions of a number of Allies who have provided or are planning to provide for the reinforcement of the NATO Baltic Air Policing Mission;
5. To strive for the best possible supplementary Host Nation Support for Air Policing Mission arrangement which takes into account Allies' needs and available resources;
6. Welcomed the deployment of the 173<sup>rd</sup> Airborne Brigade companies of the United States to each of the Baltic states;
7. Stressed the need for the persistent presence of the United States and other Allied nations' forces and other contributions to the reassurance measures in the Baltic states;
8. Highlighted that NATO and Allied nations need to be visibly present in all regions of the Alliance by inter alia conducting regular military exercises;
9. Emphasised the need to enhance and deepen defence cooperation between the Baltic states and Poland to strengthen collective defence and promote common interests;
10. Underscored the importance of NATO's advance planning;
11. Stressed the urgent need in cooperation with Civilian Aviation Authorities to ensure maximum flexibility in use of our airspace for Allied aircrafts;
12. Agreed to stride for enhancement of the Baltic Regional Training Event into a large-scale Allied air defence exercise;

13. Commended the progress achieved by the Baltic states' armed forces regarding preparations for the joint contribution to NRF16 with BALTFOR;
14. Welcomed the progress achieved in setting up the Baltic Combined Joint Staff Element and readiness to activate this new Baltic cooperation body;
15. Agreed to continue the coordination of strategic communications activities in order to safeguard our nations from information operations directed against the Baltic states;
16. Stressed the importance of adequate defence spending in NATO nations, and in this light welcomed the Latvian and Lithuanian decisions to increase defence spending with the aim of reaching 2% of GDP.

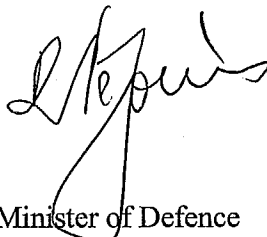
Sven MIKSER



Minister of Defence  
Republic of Estonia

Date: May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2014

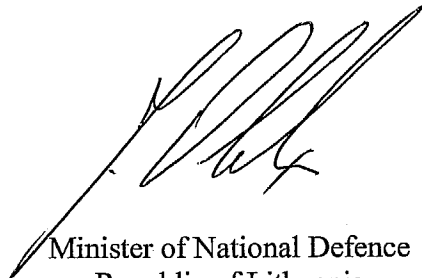
Raimonds VĒJONIS



Minister of Defence  
Republic of Latvia

Date: May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2014

Juozas OLEKAS



Minister of National Defence  
Republic of Lithuania

Date: May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2014