

**JOINT COMMUNIQUÉ**  
**OF**  
**THE MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE**

**May 30, 2008**  
**Jaunmokas, Latvia**

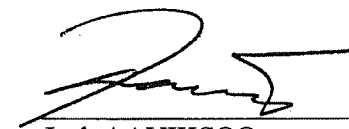
The Minister of Defence of the Republic of Estonia, the Minister of Defence of the Republic of Latvia, the Minister of National Defence of the Republic of Lithuania, as the Ministerial Committee,

Having met in Jaunmokas, Latvia on May 29-30, 2008,

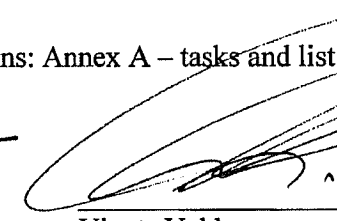
1. Expressed the importance of the decisions made at the NATO summit in Bucharest stressing the task of strong collective defence of populations, territory and forces as the core purpose of the Alliance.
2. Underscored the need to strengthen NATO's defence capabilities against new security challenges in the area of cyber defence and energy security, as well as missile defence and reaffirmed their commitment to contribute to these new NATO policies.
3. Emphasized the importance of the decision of the NATO Summit in Bucharest to start accession talks with Albania and Croatia to join the NATO, expressed their support for a membership invitation for Macedonia and their readiness to support the Membership Action Plan for Ukraine and Georgia.
4. Reiterated their commitment to the NATO led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) mission in Afghanistan. The ministers noted that additional efforts need to be undertaken in achieving Afghan ownership and by the international community in developing a comprehensive approach in the reconstruction of Afghanistan.
5. Voiced their deep concern over recent escalation of tensions between the Government of Georgia and the Government of Russian Federation over the Georgian region of Abkhazia and condemned the shoot-down of a Georgian unmanned aerial vehicle over the Black Sea on April 20, 2008. The ministers called upon all the involved parties to actively work for reconciliation and emphasized a need for a coordinated international response in such cases.
6. Confirmed their continuous support for Ukraine's and Georgia's political, economical, defence and security sector reform processes with the goal of their accession to Membership Action Plan this year.
7. Stressed significance of coordinated and prioritised bilateral and multilateral defence assistance outreach activities for the countries that have expressed their will to undergo security sector reform process and integrate into Euro Atlantic structures. In this regard, the Ministers welcomed the "Declaration of Intent on Cooperation between the Nordic and Baltic states in the Field of Security Sector Reform and Establishment of Nordic-Baltic Initiative on Regional Defence Cooperation".

8. Emphasized the importance of joint procurements in order to increase interoperability of the Baltic states' armed forces as the strategic objective and achieve greater economies of scale by endorsing "Political guidance on joint procurements".
9. Emphasized the importance of continuous support from NATO and the EU states to the Baltic Defence College (BALTDEFCOL) to sustain wide multinational character with regard to its teaching staff and students.
10. Stressed that Baltic Naval Squadron (BALTRON) remains standing and operational naval force of the three Baltic states and endorsed "Political guidance for further development of Baltic Naval Squadron".
11. Reaffirmed the Baltic states' aim to seek the continuation of NATO Air Policing mission at least until 2018 and emphasized the substantial increase of Host Nation Support provided by the Baltic states as well as improving efforts to enable different types of training flights.
12. Endorsed "Political Guidance for conducting a common Baltic states analysis for Air policing in the post 2018 period" for the decision to be taken around 2010/2011.
13. Recognized the progress related to preparation of the Baltic Battalion in NRF-14 and stressed the need to find an effective and sustainable form for the Baltic states' land forces cooperation after the participation of the Baltic Battalion in NRF-14.
14. Supported the initiative of Baltic Military Committee to have closer cooperation on defence and operational planning between the three Baltic states.

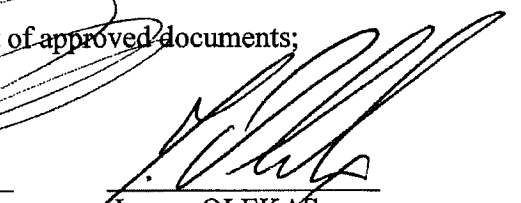
This Joint Communiqué contains: Annex A – tasks and list of approved documents;



Jaak AAVIKSOO  
Minister of Defence  
Republic of Estonia



Vinets Veldre  
Minister of Defence  
Republic of Latvia



Juozas OLEKAS  
Minister of National  
Defence  
Republic of Lithuania