

JOINT COMMUNIQUÉ
OF THE MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE

June 8, 2012
Ämari, 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),

Having met in Ämari, Estonia on June 7-8, 2012,

1. Underscored the decisions taken at NATO Chicago Summit for NATO to remain the transatlantic framework for strong collective defence and the essential forum for security consultations and decisions among Allies. Emphasised the determination of the Baltic states to contribute to the implementation of these decisions;
2. Recognised the solid state of Baltic defence cooperation and agreed on several new initiatives including a common contribution to NATO Response Force, increased contribution to Standing NATO Mine Countermeasures Group 1 through BALTRON and joint procurement of ammunition;
3. Welcomed the decision to carry out the NATO Air Policing Mission on a continuous basis in the Baltic states as an excellent example of Smart Defence and of Alliance's continued and visible commitment to collective defence. Decided to enhance the host nation support to the Allies participating in the Mission to 5 million Euros annually starting from 2015;
4. Reiterated the importance of regional cooperation and Baltic states' common interest to further strengthen Nordic-Baltic cooperation through practical projects in mutually beneficial cooperation areas. To this end, and to strengthen the Baltic defence cooperation, the Ministers agreed upon a new Baltic defence cooperation framework;
5. Recognised 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;
6. Agreed to strengthen the coordination of Baltic states' partnership programmes and assistance initiatives to Eastern Partner countries, primarily to the countries which declare the European and Euro-Atlantic integration as their strategic goal;
7. Recognised that close Baltic defence cooperation has attracted more international interest to the region. In this respect emphasised the need to enhance cooperation between the Baltic states and Poland to strengthen collective defence, including within the framework of host nation exercise Baltic Host;
8. Highlighted that NATO must be visibly present in all regions of the Alliance by inter alia conducting regular military exercises, for instance Steadfast Jazz 2013;
9. Stressed the need to integrate cyber defence into NATO structures and everyday procedures, while continuing the high-level political dialogue;

10. Greeted the forthcoming establishment of NATO's Energy Security Centre of Excellence in Lithuania as a purposeful step forward in enhancing energy security and expressed their determination to strongly support the activities of the NATO ENSEC COE;
11. Reaffirmed their commitment to continuing the support of Afghanistan in accordance with the NATO Strategic Plan;
12. Underlined that NATO and EU must work together to ensure that Smart Defence and Pooling and Sharing are complementary and mutually reinforcing;
13. Agreed to coordinate strategic communications activities in order to safeguard our nations from information operations directed against the Baltic states;
14. Stressed the importance of adequate defence spending in NATO nations, and in this light highlighted the fact that Estonia contributes 2% of GDP to defence expenditures and welcomed the Latvian and Lithuanian decisions to increase defence spending with the aim of reaching 2% of GDP.

Urmas REINSALU

Dr. Artis PABRIKS

Rasa JUKNEVIČIENĒ

Minister of Defence
Republic of Estonia

Minister of Defence
Republic of Latvia

Minister of National Defence
Republic of Lithuania

Date: 08.06.2012

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