

JOINT STATEMENT

**of the National Defence Committee of the Riigikogu of the Republic of
Estonia,
the Defence, Internal Affairs and Corruption Prevention Committee of the
Saeima of the Republic of Latvia,
the Committee on National Security and Defence of the Seimas of the
Republic of Lithuania and
the National Defence Committee of the Sejm of the Republic of Poland**

16 May 2011
Vilnius

The National Defence Committee of the Riigikogu of the Republic of Estonia, the Defence, Internal Affairs and Corruption Prevention Committee of the Saeima of the Republic of Latvia, the Committee on National Security and Defence of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania and the National Defence Committee of the Sejm of the Republic of Poland meeting in Vilnius on 16 May 2011;

Welcome the widening format of cooperation among parliamentary defence committees, and *appreciate* that the Committee on Defence of the Riksdag of the Kingdom of Sweden and the National Defence Committee of the Sejm of the Republic of Poland have joined the broader political cooperation;

Support the principle that interparliamentary cooperation should be developed through larger formats and *highlight* the objective to develop closer cooperation between the defence committees of Baltic, Nordic, and Polish Parliaments;

Call on Baltic, Nordic and Polish Governments and Parliaments to better coordinate national positions on defence and security matters; recognize that, in view of the decline in defence budgets in Europe, joint capability building and joint use of such capabilities would help to reinforce the overall military capabilities of the EU and NATO;

Urge the Ministries of Defence and Armed Forces of Baltic and Nordic countries to consider the opportunities to improve and expand defence cooperation through analysis of their capabilities and to assess their readiness for more intensive and wider regional cooperation; as well as *welcome* Polish participation in regional cooperation formats in its needs and capacities;

Consider that efforts should be strengthened and better coordinated in various international formats such as NATO, EU, UN and OSCE in addressing cyber security; *call* on the Baltic and Nordic countries to expand their cooperation in cyber security and render their cooperation formal and regular, especially in terms of information exchange and training; *support* the affiliation of all Nordic countries with NATO Cooperative Cyber Defence Centre of Excellence;

Emphasise that energy security should become an area of active cooperation and coordination of actions of EU and NATO Member States and **underline** the need to seek effective forms of cooperation on energy security;

Commend the launch of the transition process aimed to transfer responsibility for security to the Afghan Government in line with the principles agreed at the NATO Summit in Lisbon; **note** that exit of international forces should be coordinated and depend on the success of transfer of responsibility for security to the Afghan Government.

Jointly seek permanent NATO air policing mission in the Baltic States;

Support the position that, as agreed in Lisbon, NATO has to develop its own independent missile defence system and **stress** that all decisions regarding the defence of NATO territory must be agreed among consultations inside Alliance;

Highlight the need for the greater solidarity and transparency between NATO and EU Member States as regards the transfer of modern military technologies to third countries and support the reinforcement of the role of the EU and NATO in the area of arms export control;

Note that increased political cooperation between the Baltic States and the countries of the neighbouring regions may improve their military and other types of cooperation in NATO and EU bodies;

Agree to develop parliamentary co-operation of defence committees of the neighbouring states in both bilateral and multilateral formats, exchange information on the activities of fellow committees, share legislative and legal regulation experience and hold the meeting of the defence committees of Baltic, Nordic, and Polish Parliaments in Tallinn in 2012.



Mati Raidma

Chairman of the
National Defence
Committee

Riigikogu of the
Republic of Estonia



Ainars Latkovskis

Chairman of the
Defence, Internal
Affairs and
Corruption Prevention
Committee

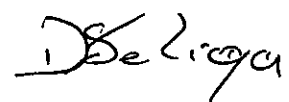
Saeima of the
Republic of Latvia



Arvydas Anušauskas

Chairman of the
Committee on National
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Seimas of the Republic
of Lithuania



Dariusz Seliga

Deputy Chairman of
National Defence
Committee

Sejm of the Republic
of Poland