

JOINT DECLARATION OF THE VISEGRAD GROUP MINISTERS OF DEFENCE

25 MAY 2016

LIBLICE, CZECH REPUBLIC

With the aim to further develop defence cooperation of the Visegrad Group (V4) countries and ahead of the upcoming NATO Summit in Warsaw as well as the Polish V4 Presidency, we, the V4 Ministers of Defence:

- I. Appreciate the progress achieved during the Czech Republic's V4 Presidency, particularly in the following areas: "V4 Plus" cooperation formats, V4 EU Battle Group certification and stand-by (including related ministerial consultations), V4 permanent modular force modalities, multinational (air) training, and information sharing in defence planning.
- II. Support robust NATO Warsaw Summit deliverables on enhancing Alliance's deterrence and defence and agree that the NATO forward presence on the Eastern flank, including in Poland to address challenges related to the Suwalki Gap, is essential for strengthening the security of the entire region.
- III. Task the V4 Chiefs of Defence to provide, by the NATO Summit in Warsaw, a practical plan of the V4 rotational presence in the Baltic States in 2017 to conduct exercises in support of NATO's assurance measures.
- IV. Agree to meet after the Summit to discuss implementation of its decisions in a coordinated way.
- V. Cooperate during the preparation of the European Global Strategy (EGS) as well as the possible follow-on document focusing on EU's Common Security and Defence Policy, This work provides further opportunity to enhance NATO-EU cooperation.
- VI. Agree to speed up the coordination of efforts in the area of Air Force Cross-Border Operations (CBO) and further elaborate potential multinational approaches related to Air Forces cooperation.
- VII. Encourage efficient development of feasibility studies for the five capability development areas (CBRN Defence, Joint Terminal Attack Controllers, Training and Education, Joint Logistic Support Group, Special Operations Tactical Training) and task the V4 Planning Group to coordinate the effort and report to the Senior Body on progress on a regular basis.

- VIII. Task V4 military planners to speed up the process of finalizing the Midterm Plan of Training Opportunities and encourage our armed forces to further enhance operational interoperability mainly but not exclusively through joint exercises.
- IX. Encourage common approach to defence education, including through the V4 Military Educational Platform (VIGMILEP).
- X. Promote close contacts between V4 and the European Defence Agency to prepare ground for cooperative regional projects, including smart sharing models, opportunities for multinational procurement and alignment of replacement cycles, and developing business cases for our defence industries.
- XI. Stress the long-term character of V4 defence cooperation and stand ready to support the upcoming Polish V4 Presidency in order to further contribute to Europe's defence, security and stability.

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Martin Stropnický

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on behalf of
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