

**DECLARATION OF COOPERATION
AMONG
THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE OF THE REPUBLIC OF ESTONIA
AND
THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE OF THE REPUBLIC OF LATVIA
AND
THE MINISTRY OF NATIONAL DEFENCE OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA**

**IN PROMOTING AVAILABILITY OF THE BALTIC STATES' AIRSPACE FOR
NATO AIR ACTIVITIES**

Following Russia's war against of Ukraine, the gravest threat to Euro-Atlantic security in decades, Allied Leaders agreed to significantly strengthen NATO's longer-term deterrence and defence posture, including in the air domain. The Allies decided to further develop the full range of ready forces and capabilities necessary to maintain credible deterrence and forward defence.

The Allies have taken steps to enhance NATO's air and missile defence posture in the eastern part of NATO by deploying air and missile defence assets, thus demonstrating their solidarity and determination to defend the territory and populations of the Alliance. They have also agreed to continue to improve this posture through rotational deployments aiming to increase the readiness, responsiveness and agility of NATO air and missile defence forces. This is a step forward to ensure better preparedness to rapid transition from peace to crisis and conflict. We encourage immediate implementation of the NATO Air Defence Rotational Model and invite NATO and Allies to contribute their capabilities to this end. This would mark a movement towards further enhancement of NATO's air and missile defence.

Acknowledging that the availability of suitable airspace volumes is one of the key enablers for proficient regular deployments of air and missile defence assets, we, the signatory Nations of this Declaration, highlight trilateral achievements in the context of the Military Airspace Block Concept, which already provides opportunities for NATO and Allies to utilize a significant volume of regionally interconnected airspace for NATO deterrence, enhanced vigilance and large-scale training activities.

The Baltic States reconfirm their intent to increase the defence investment towards 3 percent of GDP in the upcoming years. We highlight the significance of investments to national air defences regionally, including procurements of medium range air defence systems. The Baltic States will continue to focus on cross-border activities and to enhance capabilities, including training of ground based air and missile defence units with the Allied forces, and infrastructure for the Allied needs such as air bases with required services. We continue to provide the Host Nation Support, including recent increase of the trilateral provision of Host Nation Support for the NATO Air Policing in the Baltic States by 25 percent.

We, the signatory Nations, express our joint intent to pursue cooperation on the continued provision and, if required, rapid enhancement of airspace solutions suitable for NATO training, exercises and other air activities within the Baltic region while keeping flexibility in accommodating Allied needs and specific requirements on an *ad hoc* basis. We, the signatory Nations, commit to promote availability of the Baltic States' airspace for NATO air activities and to ensure the highest flight safety standards and improve civil-military collaboration between the Baltic States.

NATO air activities in the Baltic States and their airspace demonstrates resolve and solidarity of the Alliance while contributing to increased responsiveness, safety, security, and deterrence.

This Declaration of Cooperation does not create any rights and obligations under international law and is signed on 11 July 2023 in three original copies in English.