

Bucharest, 11 September 2018

Trilateral Meeting of the Foreign Ministers of Poland, Romania and Turkey

Joint Press Statement

1. We have gathered in Bucharest to share views on the main issues on the Euro-Atlantic security agenda and to discuss our contribution to addressing current threats and challenges.
2. At the NATO Summit in Brussels, Allied Heads of State and Government adopted important decisions for the future of our Alliance, significantly taking forward the process of adaptation to today's security environment. Our countries will contribute actively to the implementation of these decisions, in the spirit of allied unity, solidarity and fair burden sharing.
3. In view of enduring challenges and threats from all strategic directions, we firmly acknowledge the crucial role of the North Atlantic Alliance in the present security environment. NATO remains the transatlantic framework for strong collective defence and the essential forum for security consultations, decisions and joint actions among allies. We will continue to support, preserve and strengthen the transatlantic bond, which remains the backbone of the Alliance and is crucial to our common defence and to international security.
4. In recognition that our security is indivisible and in support of the 360-degree approach, we reaffirm our strong commitment to regional security and stability, from the Baltic to the Black and Mediterranean Seas and the Western Balkans, and will continue to work together to this end.
5. We welcome the considerable progress made in improving the Alliance's deterrence and defence posture, capacity and ability to project stability, and contributions to the fight against terrorism, and we are determined to work actively to implement all measures within the deadlines established, including through the implementation of the Readiness Initiative that will significantly enhance NATO's reinforcement capabilities. We are looking forward as well to timely implementation of adapted NATO Command Structure, for which proposals have been made by Poland, Romania and Turkey. We have stressed the importance of Allied forward presence (enhanced Forward Presence and tailored Forward Presence) on the Eastern flank in a coherent manner, as a part of the overall collective effort to strengthen NATO's deterrence and defence. We have also underlined the necessity of fully implementing the Tailored Assurance Measures for Turkey. We remain committed to fully implementing all initiatives developed in order to ensure an appropriate Allied response to all threats and challenges in a 360-degree approach.
6. We continue to follow with concern Russia's increasing and visible offensive military posturing, including near NATO borders, such as repeated violation of NATO airspace, the continued military build-up in Crimea and Kaliningrad, Russia's large scale military

exercises and its continued violation of obligations and commitments on arms control and confidence building measures. We expressed our concern with these worrying developments, as well as with the increased uses of hybrid tactics that have serious implications for the regional security and beyond. Against this background, NATO should continue its approach to Russia as agreed in the Wales, Warsaw and Brussels Summits. The Alliance responded to this changed security environment by enhancing its deterrence and defence posture while remaining open to political dialogue with Russia, based on reciprocity and with a view to increasing transparency and predictability.

7. We reiterate our firm and principled position that we will not recognize the illegal and illegitimate annexation of Crimea. We follow the situation in Donbas and Crimea, as well as in Transnistria, Abkhazia and South Ossetia with concern and reiterate our support for the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Ukraine, Georgia, and the Republic of Moldova within their internationally recognised borders. We urge Russia for a constructive role in the resolution of these conflicts. We are also committed to continue to actively support our Eastern partners - Ukraine, Georgia and the Republic of Moldova, to advance democratic reforms, increase their security and defence capacity and strengthen their resilience, bringing them closer to their respective European and Euro-Atlantic aspirations.
8. The need to safeguard the stability and security of the Western Balkans, a region of strategic importance for Euro-Atlantic security, remains our shared interest. Ten years after the decisions adopted at the Bucharest Summit, we welcome the fact that conditions were met in order for NATO to extend to the Government in Skopje the invitation to begin accession talks with the Alliance. We will support all efforts for the successful completion of this process, which will also constitute a significant contribution to regional peace and security. We also underline our support to Bosnia and Herzegovina in its NATO membership aspiration, and declare our readiness to work with it in reaching this goal.
9. We remain committed to NATO's Open Door Policy, which aims to contribute to security and stability in the Euro-Atlantic region. We reconfirm our countries' determination to continue to support all those partner countries who aspire to join the Alliance on their path to membership.
10. As we commemorate today 17 years from the terrible tragedy of 9/11 and pay our respect to all those who have perished in terrorist acts across the globe, we express our concern regarding the unprecedented level of terrorism, which poses a direct threat to the security of all our countries and citizens. As underlined by the Brussels Summit, we categorically reject terrorism and stand firmly in unity and solidarity in the fight against it. We will continue to support NATO efforts in the fight against terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, including its contribution to the Global Coalition to Defeat ISIS/Da'esh, as well as initiatives meant to project stability in the Southern neighbourhood of the Alliance, such as the new training Mission in Iraq and defence capacity building for interested partner countries.
11. As we look ahead towards the 70th anniversary of NATO, we remain committed to keeping this enduring Alliance strong and able to properly meet the security threats and challenges we face.