

Final conclusions and recommendations from the National Defence Committee report *NATO Deterrence in the Baltic Sea Region: Current Situation and Perspectives*, discussed by the Riigikogu as a matter of significant national importance on 8 June 2016.

1. The security situation in the Eastern neighbourhood of NATO has tensed over the last years, and is likely to remain so for a long time. With this in mind, NATO must contribute towards long-term solutions to improve its collective defence.
2. NATO's European allies must make stronger contributions to defence cooperation than so far, in order to ensure the sustainability of the collective defence and the capabilities development of the Alliance. It is crucial to work towards strengthening the unity of the Alliance. At the same time, we must not forget that allied relations would function efficiently in a crisis only if Estonia manages to put more emphasis on independent defence capability.
3. NATO deterrence and protection of Member States need strengthening in practical terms, while the principles of NATO deterrence need updating. Decisions on updating the deterrence must be made at the NATO Warsaw Summit, at the latest.
4. At the NATO Warsaw Summit, the allies must emphasise the importance of nuclear deterrence and its modernisation, to avoid any country misjudging its chances of using the nuclear weapon.
5. NATO defence planning, which is currently based on deployment of additional forces and deterrence by punishment, must change its focus to deterrence by denial and adequate advanced presence in the Baltic states, Poland, and the whole Baltic Sea region.
6. In order to avoid isolating the Baltic Sea countries, the allies must contribute to an A2/AD control strategy, with protection of the Suwałki corridor being of critical importance.
7. Work towards implementing the decisions of the NATO Warsaw Summit as quickly as possible.
8. In order to achieve deterrence by denial more efficiently, in the medium term, a combat capable unit of NATO allies along with support elements must be positioned into each Baltic state, including Estonia. In connection with this, we must conduct a detailed analysis of the capability development of the destination country, from the point of view of creating housing and training conditions for an allied unit of up to a brigade size.
9. There is an additional need to preposition the heavy equipment and other equipment of the NATO allies into Estonia and the other Baltic states.
10. In the interests of national defence, ensure the readiness to shift from the NATO Baltic air policing mission to an air defence mission, by increasing the number of allied air force units and fighter planes in the region, and by creating an adequate air defence system at the same time.
11. In order to strengthen deterrence, a permanent NATO presence on the Baltic Sea should be achieved in cooperation with the allies.

12. Intensify national level cooperation in sea surveillance, and introduce major developments into the Estonian coastal defence system.
13. Highlight the consensus of the Estonian political parties on defence expenditure as an excellent example. When planning defence expenditure, devote more attention to strengthening independent defence capabilities and on rehabilitation services. Consider increasing Estonia's defence expenditure, with particular focus on the crucial capability development activities and the investment needs in the destination country.
14. NATO Member States need to invest more into exercises, including into playing through NATO collective defence activities in the Baltic Sea region.
15. Increase the capabilities of the USA and the allies in cyber and electronic warfare in Europe, which would include closer cooperation with the NATO Cooperative Cyber Defence Centre of Excellence, located in Estonia, as well as with the Estonian Cyber Range.
16. NATO crisis management exercise CMX 2016 revealed several areas of national legal practice that should be brought up to date, based on defence plans and possible crisis scenarios. Conclusions from CMX 2016 must absolutely be taken into account when renewing NATO defence plans and reviewing the decision making process.
17. Support the NATO-EU cooperation in ensuring stability and increasing security.
18. Work consistently towards a more efficient inclusion of Finland and Sweden into regional defence cooperation.
19. Support the dialogue between NATO and the Russian Federation, based on respect for the standards of international law.