

Advancing Nordic-Baltic security and defence cooperation

With Finland's and Sweden's accessions to NATO, all Nordic and Baltic countries are now members of the Alliance. This historic policy shift opens a new chapter of Nordic-Baltic security and defence cooperation. Our own security and defence, bilaterally as well as regionally, is getting stronger as a result.

With the Nordic-Baltic region now fully integrated in NATO, we have an opportunity to advance our collaboration even further. Making full use of this potential is of critical interest, not only for the Nordic-Baltic countries, but for the Alliance as a whole.

To this end, we – the Heads of State and Government of Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, and Sweden – jointly entrust the former Secretary General of NATO, Mr. Jens Stoltenberg, with the task of producing an independent report outlining policy recommendations for further advancing Nordic-Baltic security and defence cooperation.

Through his extraordinary leadership of the Alliance, Mr Stoltenberg is uniquely qualified to give advice on how the Nordic-Baltic countries most effectively can contribute to security in Northern Europe and the entire Euro-Atlantic area.

The report should focus primarily, but not exclusively, on military defence. The suggestions in the report should contribute to increasing the threshold against an armed attack, strengthen deterrence and defence, counter Russian sabotage and other hybrid acts and operations, as well as increasing societal resilience, regional cooperation, and concrete operational capability. It should draw on lessons learned from Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine.

We look forward to receiving his independent policy recommendations on issues such as enhancing Nordic-Baltic security and defence cooperation, strengthening NATO's deterrence and defence in the region and taking further the region's strong support for Ukraine.

All recommendations should aim to further NATO objectives and capabilities, making the Alliance stronger by increasing operational effect in the short to medium term. These recommendations will serve as a basis for further discussions among the Nordic-Baltic leaders and ministers aiming at enhancing our collective security.

The report, to be presented in June 2025, should inter alia explore the following thematic areas of Nordic-Baltic cooperation, based on input from all eight countries:

- Unified effort in support of Ukraine
- Enablement of Allied operations and regional posture within the NDPP-framework
- Support to partners and international security operations
- Air warfare including IAMD
- Defence industry and innovation
- Countering hybrid activities and operations, including threats in the cyber domain and to critical underwater infrastructure
- Societal resilience, security of supply, robust and interoperable infrastructure, and military mobility