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# ROMANIAN MILITARY NEWSLETTER

The Minister of National Defence,  
at the NATO Defence Ministerial

## Special points of interests:

- The Minister of National Defence, at the NATO Defence Ministerial



NATO Defence Ministerial (foto: NATO.int)

On the first day of the NATO Defence Ministerial, defence minister Gabriel Leş participated in two working sessions within Allied framework - the first one dealt with the evolutions and implications for the Alliance with respect to the Intermediate-Nuclear Forces Treaty and the second one focused on the implementation of the deterrence and defence posture.

During the talks, the ministers expressed their concern with regard to Russia's continuous development of the SSC-8 missile system, thus breaching the INF Treaty. The officials reiterated the fact that this is a significant risk against the Euro-Atlantic security and that NATO will continue to maintain a credible and efficient deterrence and defence posture. The central elements of the talks was the identification of the implications of Russia's breaching of the Treaty and the way the Alliance must adapt to this new situation.

On the other hand, the Allied defence ministers highlighted the progress made in the implementation of the decisions made at the last Allied summits,

March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2019

Issue no. 2

Pag. 2

including the one which took place in Brussels, on July 2018, and established political lines of actions in the fields characterized by implementation delays.

Aspects referring to the implementation of the NATO Readiness Initiative/NRI and the Reinforcement concept were debated during the reunion. Also, the officials adopted the 2019 Political Guidance, an essential document on the defence planning guidance within NATO, on a four-year period.

On the first day of the reunion, an important and visible element on the Allied agenda was the equitable burden sharing. Thus, during the working dinner, the officials emphasized the importance of the national plans regarding the implementation of the Defence Investment Pledge – DIP adopted at the 2014 Wales Summit on all its three dimensions - Cash-Capabilities-Contributions. In this context, Romania restated its commitment for allocating 2% of the GDP for defence expenditures and maintaining this level for the following years.

On the second day of the NATO Defence Ministerial, on Thursday, February 14, Minister Gabriel Leş had a bilateral meeting with his Ukrainian counterpart, Stepan Poltorak.

The meeting was a proper moment to discuss the level of bilateral cooperation, the ways of enhancing this cooperation and the current security situation from the Black Sea region.

Also, on this occasion, minister Gabriel Leş reiterated the support offered by Romania to Ukraine's Euro-Atlantic integration efforts and to the territorial integrity of this country.

### **NATO Defence Ministers conclude two days of discussions**

Defence Ministers from the NATO member countries exchanged opinions on the developments of the missions conducted in Afghanistan, Kosovo and Iraq during the working session dedicated to the NATO missions and operations, on Thursday, February 14.

Minister Gabriel Leş pointed out the importance of supporting the Afghan peace –keeping process, insisting on the fact that this must be totally assumed by the Afghan authorities, with the support of the North-Atlantic Alliance. Also, the defence minister mentioned the increase of Romanian troops participating in Resolute Support Mission in 2019, with a total of over 800 servicemen in the theaters of operations, a significant contribution which places our country among the top troop contributors.

The last working session of the Defence Ministers Meeting , with the participation of the High representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Federica Mogherini, as well as the representatives of Sweden and Finland, focused on aspects related



Defence Minister Gabriel Leş and his  
Ukrainian counterpart, Stepan Poltorak  
(foto: M.Ap.N.)

March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2019

Issue no. 2

Pag. 3

to the NATO-EU defence cooperation, paying special attention on the initiatives that can enhance the Strategic Partnership between the two organizations and transforming this line of action into an essential element of the package of measures aiming at consolidating security at European level.

Minister Gabriel Leş emphasized the fact that the transparency, complementarity, inclusiveness and elimination of parallelisms must be primary lines of actions when consolidating cooperation between the two organizations. Also, minister Leş highlighted the fact that a key priority of Romania, inclusively by holding the Presidency of the Council of the EU, aims at consolidating the NATO-EU relation, respectively maintaining a solid and functional trans-Atlantic relation.