



MILITARY REVIEW

NEWSLETTER

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MINISTER ANGEL TÎLVĂR'S OFFICIAL VISIT TO THE REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA

Minister of National Defence, Angel Tîlvăr, paid an official visit to the Republic of Slovenia on June 29, at the invitation of his counterpart, Marjan Šarec.

During the talks, the two officials addressed issues related to the current defence cooperation agenda, both at bilateral level and within NATO and EU context.

"I had a very good discussion with Minister Šarec mainly focused on the upcoming NATO Summit from Vilnius, as well as on the effects of multiple crises caused by Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine. I emphasized that it is very important to work closely together and coordinate our positions. I am confident that the Vilnius Summit will bring solid and practical solutions for deterring the Russian military threat, especially the one regarding the further consolidation of NATO's deterrence and defence posture", the Romanian Defence said.



During the talks, the officials committed to continue enhancing the strategic dialogue on security and defence, as well as the activities with the highest degree of applicability.

In that context, the good cooperation with the Slovenian partner in the field of joint training and military exercises was highlighted, placing a particular emphasis on the resumption of the ADRIATIC STRIKE exercise, as well as on the collaboration in the fields of war heroes' commemoration and military history. Also, Romania and Slovenia are interested in continuing conducting mountain troop and mountain combat exercises and training activities.

During the meeting, the Romanian minister welcomed the prospect of the Slovenian soldiers' participation in the Allied presence deployed on Romanian territory.

"I presented Minister Šarec the challenges we face in the Black Sea region, an extremely important region for the trans-Atlantic security. Romania has always emphasized, both within NATO and EU, the importance of the Black Sea region, both as a power projection platform used by Russia and as an area of strategic importance for Euro-Atlantic security. It is obvious that the Black Sea region requires a stronger commitment from the NATO allies, and we support a comprehensive approach of the Alliance in our region", Minister Angel Tîlvăr said.

In regional context, the Minister of National Defence emphasized the increased attention paid to the South-Eastern Europe Defence Ministerial (SEDM) initiative, highlighting the taking over of the rotational presidency of the format this summer. The importance of supporting the Slovenian partner in order to accomplish the objectives of Romania's mandate was also appreciated. Minister Tîlvăr encouraged Slovenia to participate in our country's initiative to include resilience as an important topic on the agenda of Romania's SEDM Presidency.

Also, the two officials emphasized the importance of offering a European perspective to the states from the Western Balkans region, a region of strategic interest for the two states.

ROMANIA HAS TAKEN OVER THE SEDM PRESIDENCY

On June 28, State Secretary for Defence Policy, Planning and International Relations, Simona Cojocaru, received the visit of the SEDM (South-Eastern Europe Defence Ministerial Process) Secretariat leadership, in the context of Bulgaria's conclusion of the mandate of the Presidency of the SEDM Coordination Committee and the Political-Military Steering Committee on July 1, 2023.

The handover/takeover of the SEDM Secretariat from the Bulgarian partner took place in this context, thus marking Romania's de facto takeover, for the following two years, of the Presidency of the SEDM initiative. The official ceremony will take place on August 31, 2023, in Kumanovo, North Macedonia

"I would like to thank my Bulgarian colleagues for the way they managed this Presidency, in an extremely difficult period for the regional security. The motto of the Romanian Presidency will be Resilience, Commitment and Stability. This emphasizes a major objective, the consolidation of regional cooperation in order to reduce vulnerabilities and manage current challenges, and achieve a stable security environment", State Secretary Simona Cojocaru said.

It is for the third time that our country will hold the SEDM Presidency, after the 2001-2003 and 2013-2015 timeframes

During the activity, the Bulgarian delegation, headed by the Director of the SEDM Secretariat and Chief of the Regional and Bilateral Defence Cooperation Department, Daniela Grigорова Dimitrova, handed over to the Romanian delegation, led by the Deputy Director of the International Defence Cooperation Department, Violeta Nicolescu, the future director of the SEDM Secretariat, the stamp and archive of the SEDM Secretariat. Also, the Bulgarian party made a briefing about the status of the projects run within the SEDM initiative at the level of the two committees - the Coordination Committee and the Political-Military Steering Committee. She also shared the lessons identified and learned during this period and made recommendations so that this transition process could not affect the ongoing activities of the initiative

Romania's taking over the SEDM Presidency, an initiative that includes 15 member states and the Republic of Moldova, as observer, is a good opportunity to increase the national profile at regional level by achieving the proposed objectives, as well as to increase our country's role as a security provider through the successful revitalization of the SEDM initiative, especially in the current strategic context marked by the war from Ukraine, a member state of the initiative

Increasing the profile and relevance of the SEDM regional initiative by attracting a more active engagement within the ongoing projects and identifying new ones, developing the political-military dialogue in order to generate practical ideas, which could contribute to the consolidation of the initiative, as well as maintaining an open-door policy are some of the priorities assumed by Romania. Also, as president of the SEDM, Romania will focus on consolidating the capabilities of the Southeast European Brigade (SEEBRIG) by accelerating the entry into force of the sixth Additional Protocol to

the Agreement on the Multinational Peacekeeping Force in Southern Europe -East (MPFSEE), which will increase the Brigade's interoperability and ability of participating in peace-keeping missions.

MEETING BETWEEN STATE SECRETARY SIMONA COJOCARU AND THE AMBASSADOR OF TUNISIA TO BUCHAREST

On June 27, State Secretary for Defence Policy, Planning and International Relations, Simona Cojocaru, received the visit of the Ambassador of the Republic of Tunisia to Bucharest, Raja Jhinaoui Ben Ali, on the occasion of conclusion of the mission of the Tunisian diplomat in Romania.

During the talks, the two officials addressed current topics listed on the defence cooperation agenda, both bilaterally and within NATO and EU context.

Thus, the importance of the negotiation finalization and signing of the Agreement between the Government of Romania and the Government of the Republic of Tunisia on bilateral military cooperation was highlighted, a paper that will lie at the foundation of the development of bilateral military cooperation, in areas of particular importance for both parties. Among these, we can mention joint training, military education, participation in international exercises, as well as the exchange of lessons learned on the presence of women in the armed forces and in peacekeeping operations.

At the end of the meeting, the Romanian official thanked the Ambassador of the Republic of Tunisia for the diplomatic activity carried out in Romania and for his openness shown in the relationship with the Ministry of National Defence.

THE CHIEF OF DEFENCE STAFF PAID AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO ALBANIA

The Chief of the Defence Staff, General Daniel Petrescu, met June 22, with the President of Albania, Bajram Begaj, and the Minister of Defence, Niko Peleshi, during his visit paid to the Republic of Albania, over June 21-23, at the invitation of his counterpart, Brigadier General Arben Kingji.

The officials' meetings focused on increasing military relations at bilateral level and within allied context. At the same time, the talks focused on the security situation, with emphasis on the Western Balkans and the Black Sea region.

General Daniel Petrescu mentioned that improving regional stability is one of the Romanian Armed Forces' objectives. A robust partnership between the two countries' armed forces contributes to ensuring a climate favorable to the implementation of common security interests. Also, the presence of the soldiers of the two countries in stability operations conducted in the Balkans, such as "EUFOR ALTHEA" in Bosnia and Herzegovina, helps increasing regional stability and mutual trust. "I thanked Brigadier General Arben Kingji for the constant presence of the Albanian allies both in the multinational commands established on Romanian territory and in the major training events conducted in our country. The most recent example is the participation of the military police small unit in Saber Guardian 23 Exercise. We discussed together the further increase reciprocal participation consistency in the exercises scheduled over the next 3 to 4 years," the Chief of Defence said.

The visit was an opportunity to achieve a harmonized military approach, as part of the Allied defensive thinking that will be finalized at the Vilnius NATO Summit from July.

MEETING BETWEEN STATE SECRETARY SIMONA COJOCARU AND THE AMBASSADOR OF JAPAN TO ROMANIA

State Secretary for Defence Policy, Planning and International Relations, Simona Cojocaru, had a meeting with the Ambassador of Japan to Bucharest, Hiroshi Ueda, on June 22, at the Ministry of National Defence Headquarters.

During the meeting, the officials discussed the perspectives of bilateral defence cooperation relations, but also within NATO, EU and the UN.



The Romanian official welcomed the conclusion of the Strategic Partnership between Romania and Japan in March this year, confirmed by the signing of the Joint Declaration by the President of Romania and the Prime Minister of Japan, expressing the belief that it would provide the framework for the increase of bilateral defence cooperation.

The official also mentioned that the bilateral discussions in the field of defence, at general manager level, from 2022, represented a good starting point for identifying the mutual interest in sectoral cooperation, by emphasizing the prospect of organizing a new round of discussions in the current year. Thus, the continuation of the political-military dialogue will enable the identification of joint projects in areas such as: cybernetic defence, military education, military history, humanitarian assistance or post-conflict reconstruction. In this context, the need to write and sign a bilateral document that would ensure the legal framework in the field of defence was also pointed out

With reference to the NATO agenda, the Romanian official welcomed the high-level contacts this year between the Japanese authorities and NATO officials, by highlighting the importance that the North Atlantic Alliance attaches to the partners in the Indo-Pacific region,



while, in the EU area, appreciated the close cooperation between the Union and Japan.

At the end of the meeting, State Secretary Simona Cojocaru appreciated Japan's non-permanent membership to the UN Security Council over 2023-2024 timeframe and highlighted the good cooperation between the Romanian and Japanese soldiers within the UN joint missions.