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# ROMANIAN MILITARY NEWSLETTER

## Minister Duşa Met with NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg

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- Minister Duşa Met with NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg
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Minister of National Defence Mircea Duşa and  
NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg

The Minister of National Defence, Mircea Duşa, met with NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg at the defence ministry HQ, Thursday, July 2. This is the first visit of NATO Secretary General in Romania.

During their meeting, the two officials discussed topics high on the Alliance agenda, that were approached during last week's defence ministerial in Brussels as well. Implementing NATO Readiness Action Plan, the long term Adaptation Measures with a view to the Summit in Warsaw of 2016 and Resolute Support mission in Afghanistan were the main topics on the discussion agenda.

As to the progress in reviewing and optimizing NATO Response Force (NRF), minister Duşa pointed out that Romania will augment and improve its contribution to NRF, also by identifying forces and capabilities for NATO's Very High Readiness Joint Task Force (VJTF).

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Romania continues the implementation of measures for rendering operational NATO Force Integration Units (NFIU) in Bucharest thus meeting the responsibilities of our country as Host Nation. We also have in mind the ambitious plan of putting at the Alliance's disposal a Multinational Division (HQ MND SE), that will offer additional options for conducting allied missions on NATO Eastern flank.

Further, Minister Duşa emphasized the need to review defence budgets and consider their increase. „Eventually, NATO credibility depends on the resources member states have, to ensure the military capabilities required by the complexity of the existing security context. Romania is set firm on this track”, the Romanian official said.

As for the need of a long term strategic adaptation of the Alliance, the national defence system has already initiated an inter-institutional process of analysis of our own contributions to this project. One of the proposals advanced in this respect was that Romania should become a joint regional center for training and exercises in the South-Eastern region of NATO.

Both the Romanian Defence Minister and NATO Secretary General appreciated the progress in consolidating the Afghan government structures of national unity and the significant progress in the way the Afghan security forces act. “Romania is the third largest contributor to Resolute Support mission from among the allies. The over 650 Romanian troops conduct missions in a large geographical area, in the North, the center and the South”, the defence minister pointed out.

Starting from the parameters agreed upon for the mission in Afghanistan, minister Duşa stressed out the need of an analysis of the time coordinates of NATO commitment in the region as well as of the flexibility of our country to identify ways of covering the possible deficits in the process of force generation.

The agenda includes a visit to the NATO Force Integration Unit (NFIU) in Bucharest, where the two officials will make press statements.



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## Participation of Minister Mircea Duşa in the Meeting of NATO Defence Ministers, Brussels, June 24 – 25

On June 25, during the ministerial, they tackled Afghanistan from the perspective of the present involvement of NATO by means of “Resolute Support” mission. The talks focused on the developments of the security environment, especially the management of the responsibility to ensure security by Afghan security and defence forces. Another level of the dialogue concerned the ways of restructuring the direct commitment in the long run, with focus on the definition of the parameters of the future formula of the durable partnership NATO-Afghanistan.

The importance of the international commitment to support Afghan security forces financially was also highlighted. Along these coordinates, the Romanian defence minister reasserted Romania’s commitment to support the stabilization and reconstruction process in Afghanistan. He also mentioned our country’s significant effort to participate in “Resolute Support”, as Romania comes third among the Allied contributors, covering a wide geographical area that includes high-risk zones (the protection of the Kandahar International Airport). Minister Duşa pointed out that Romanian authorities are considering the participation in the “Resolute Support” mission in 2016, saying we are flexible as to the configuration of the mission. The defence minister also voiced the support of an analysis process at allied level with a view to defining the time coordinates of NATO’s engagement in Afghanistan, taking into account the security conditions and challenges of this theatre of operations. On the side of the ministers’ meeting, Germany hosted a reunion of the states participating in missions in northern Afghanistan (TAAC-N). The meeting was another way of extending the exchange of opinions among the allied contributors to Afghanistan on the latest main security developments.

In this context, the Minister Duşa appreciated Germany’s role in covering the responsibility as framework nation for the Northern region, reiterating the further support of these efforts, including the ongoing presence of the training team.



Signing the Agreement on the principles and Objectives of DEU FNC

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**Minister Mircea Duşa at the Meeting of the  
North Atlantic Council**

The Meeting of the North Atlantic Council in defence ministers format that took place in Brussels , was dedicated mainly to analyzing the state and perspectives of NATO's Readiness Action Plan in an environment that changes constantly in a significant way.

"The progress in reviewing and improving NATO Response Force led to a formula better prepared to face the present threats", the Minister of National Defence, Mircea Duşa, said. As to the need to continue endorsing the allied assurance measures, minister Duşa pointed out that there are over international 100 exercises planned to be conducted over the year, whereas now, Romania is host nation to exercise Trident Joust, "a first both for Romanian soldiers and the Allied Joint Force Command Naples".

The Romanian defence minister briefed on the progress in creating the two allied command and control structures in Bucharest (NFIU and MND SE) appreciating the contribution of member states to manning the structures and rendering them operational as well as continuing the assurance measures along 2015 and further, for as long as deemed necessary.

The defence minister saluted the decision of the allied defence ministers to adopt the Package to Support the Development of Defence capabilities of Republic of Moldova, stressing that this is "an investment not only in the security and stability of this country but in our own security", and that a NATO Liaison Office should be urgently opened in Chişinău.

Another topic on the agenda was the new concept of the plans for a gradual response which represents, in Minister Duşa's opinion, "an important and much needed signal on the importance placed by the Alliance to consolidating collective defence". Mircea Duşa appreciated that "the efficiency of the new instruments and concepts will depend on speeding up the allied decision-making process".

NATO defence ministers spoke of increased defence expenditures, whereas Minister Mircea Duşa said Romania is fully committed on this path and that the defence funds of the member states depend on the credibility of the Alliance.

Today's North Atlantic working session was conducted within the Meeting of NATO Defence Ministers that takes place at NATO HQ over June 24 and 25.

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### **Meeting of NATO Defence Ministers Participating in the Framework Nation Concept Coordinated by Germany**

On Wednesday, June 24, the Minister of National Defence, Mircea Duşa participated in the informal meeting of the NATO defence ministers that are part of the Framework Nation Concept Coordinated by Germany (DEU FNC).

During the meeting, dedicated to the analysis of the stage and perspectives of the implementation process of this concept, the Romanian defence minister signed along the representatives of five other countries (Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Slovakia) a joint letter of accession to the principles and objectives of the DEU FNC group. This way, with the six new nations that come in addition to the 10 existing ones, the initiative coordinated by Germany will consist of 16 allied countries.

“The large number of countries participating in the framework group led by Germany proves this is a viable concept, in terms of its ability to support the allied countries in developing the capabilities needed to achieve the NATO’s level of ambition”, Minister Duşa said in his speech at the meeting.

The minister went on by pointing out Romania has always been an active supporter of intensifying cooperation among the European allies as a means of assuring the necessary forces and capabilities to the Alliance. Their development is all the more important now, in the context of the new challenges of the security environment in the Eastern and Southern proximity of NATO.

The Romanian minister expressed his belief “that the initiative will be a significant contribution to the intensification of the cooperation processes, for the increase of the capacity to deploy forces and maintaining capabilities critical to the Alliance, by using the framework offered by NATO defence planning process”.

The defence ministers decided to join the efforts within DEU FNC for the strategic transformation of NATO, by including the Action Plan to increase the Alliance’s operational capacity as an element contributing to its adapting ability.



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**Defence Minister's meeting with his Moldovan counterpart**

Defence Minister Mircea Duşa met with his Moldovan counterpart, Viorel Cibotaru, on June 23, at the NATO Headquarters, Brussels. The official talks were part of the NATO Defence Ministers' Meeting framework. During the meeting, minister Ciobotaru discussed with the NATO Secretary General, Jens Stoltenberg, about the assistance package for the defence capacity building which is to be offered to the Republic of Moldova and approved by the allied defence ministers.



Defence minister Mircea Duşa with his Moldovan counterpart, Viorel Cibotaru, at Brussels

On this occasion, the Romanian defence minister congratulated his Moldovan counterpart on this evolution which stands for an important political signal for NATO's commitment in supporting Chişinău authorities' efforts aiming at consolidating security and national defence. Also, Mircea Duşa emphasized that the implementation of the assistance package will allow for an efficient use of the tools and programs offered by NATO's partnership policy and will lead to the consolidation of the defence sector in the Republic of Moldova.

Topics related to the bilateral military cooperation for the near future were also approached during the meeting.

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## Exercise TRIDENT JOUST 15 Was Conducted in Romania and Bulgaria

The Allied Joint Force Command Naples personnel, which is in charge with the NATO Response Force this year, conducted TRIDENT JOUST 15 military exercise in Cincu shooting range, Braşov County, over 17 and 28 June.

During this exercise, structures of an Allied Joint Force Command were deployed in Romania for the first time; also a first was the simulation of the command and control transfer of the NATO Response Force to a temporary location, in Romania.

The Joint Logistic Support Group (JLSG), based in Naples, transferred its command in Bulgaria to exercise support for exercise TRIDENT JOUST 15.

The Joint Logistic Support Group moved to Bulgaria for the first time and trained on a large scale, in a complex operational environment to check the capacity of JLSG command to deploy and operate as a logistic support command at theatre of operations level. “The exercise is designed to test the abilities of Joint Force Command Naples to lead a collective defence operation for the Alliance,” said Admiral Mark Ferguson, Commander of JFC Naples, when he announced the exercise last month with the Romanian Minister of Defence. “This deployment will test the full operational capability of my staff by shifting command and control between my headquarters in Naples and the forward deployed elements in Cincu.”

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TRIDENT JOUST is part of a larger series of exercises called ALLIED SHIELD. These NATO exercises are defensive and are included in the set of NATO assurance measures. The operations focused on increasing interoperability, the operational capacity and the response of the allied and partner states.

The ALLIED SHIELD series included the NOBLE JUMP exercise, the first deployment for training purposes of the high-readiness units within NATO Very High Readiness Joint Task Force (VJTF). This series also included the allied Navy exercise, BALTOPS that was conducted in the Baltic Sea, and a Land Forces



The Chief of General Staff, Lieutenant General Nicolae Ciucă,  
at the Distinguished Visitors' Day of Trident Joust 15 Exercise

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exercise, SABER STRIKE which was conducted in the Baltic States. About 14,000 personnel participated in this series of exercises that took place on allied territory, in June.

“These exercise (...) demonstrate that NATO is transforming and adapting to meet the new security challenges facing the Alliance as identified at the Wales Summit,” said Admiral Ferguson. “Allied Shield demonstrates the resolve of the Alliance, its more responsive capabilities, and the commitment of each member nation to collective defence.”

Romania and Bulgaria offered support and additional resources during the exercise as host-nations. The Romanian military combined the national exercise with live shooting, VIFORUL 15, with TRIDENT JOUST exercise, in order to train all participants better.

Over 1,000 troops from 25 NATO countries participated in TRIDENT JOUST 15 exercise, along the 200 Romanian troops involved in the live shooting exercise, contributing to the implementation of the NATO Readiness Action Plan (RAP) announced at Wales Summit, while offering the assurance of collective defence to all allies.

The mission of JFC Naples is to prepare for, plan and conduct military operations in order to preserve the peace, security and territorial integrity of Alliance member states. On an annual basis, JFC Naples alternates operational command of the NRF with JFC Brunssum.

### **Defence minister's meeting with the Ambassador of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Paul Brummell**

During the official talks held at the Ministry of National Defence Headquarters on June 11, Defence Minister Mircea Duşa and the Ambassador of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland declared that the two states have similar visions in the bilateral cooperation field on setting the priorities with regard to developing military capabilities.

According to the Romanian official, the security situation from the Eastern flank of NATO imposes the continuation and consolidation of NATO's Assurance Measures throughout 2015 and in the future, as much as the security environment requires it.

On this occasion, Minister Duşa transmitted the defence minister of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Michael Fallon, his appreciation for the outstanding results of his visit in our country from March this year which created new opportunities for bilateral cooperation and discussing certain subjects listed on NATO and EU's agendas.

With respect to the joint training, Defence minister emphasized the presence in Romania of the British troops in Saber Junction 15, Platinum Lynx and SARMIS 15 Exercises.

In turn, Paul Brummell pointed out the good collaboration between Great Britain and Romania's armed forces and expressed his hope that the increased level of bilateral military cooperation would be maintained in the future, also.