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ROMANIAN MILITARY NEWSLETTER

**Defence Minister's participation in NATO and EU
events organized in Brussels**

Special points of interests:

- Defence Minister's participation in NATO and EU events organized in Brussels
- Bilateral meetings of the defence minister at the NATO Defence Ministerial from Brussels



Aspects during the NATO Defence Ministers' Reunion from Brussels

Minister of National Defence, Gabriel Leş, participated in Brussels, over 25-27 June, in a series of official activities: celebration of 15 years since the establishment of the European Defence Agency (EDA) – organized at EDA's Headquarters, Reunion of the NATO Defence Ministerial- organized at NATO General Headquarters, followed by the Reunion of the Anti-ISIS/DAESH Global Coalition- also organized at the North-Atlantic Alliance Headquarters, as part of the ministerial reunion.

As part of the NATO Defence Ministerial Reunion, the officials continued the debates on the implementation status of the decisions adopted at the previous allied summits, especially the one organized in July 2018 and the subsequent ministerial reunions (October 2018 and February 2019).

During the ministerial reunion, Gabriel Leş had bilateral meetings with his counterparts from Georgia and France.

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Defence Minister, at the celebration of 15 years since the establishment of the European Defence Agency

On 25 June, Minister of National Defence, Gabriel Leş, participated, together with the Chief of the European Defence Agency, Federica Mogherini, and the Executive Director of the EDA, Jorge Domecq, in the ceremony to mark 15 years since the establishment of the Agency. The ceremony was held at the EDA Headquarters from Belgium's capital city.

During the speech held as representative of Romania's Presidency of the Council of the European Union, Minister Leş appreciated EDA's central role within EU's efforts in the field of security and defence. At the same time, the defence minister reiterated the excellent collaboration relationship with EDA throughout the PRESSRO and expressed his conviction that this collaboration will continue along the same lines in the future, too, thus, significantly contributing to the development of the common initiatives the field of defence.

Defence Minister, at the sixth FNC Reunion from Brussels

On June 26, the Minister of National Defence, Gabriel Leş, participated in the sixth Framework Nations Concept Informal Reunion conducted as part of the NATO Defence Ministerial, over 26-27 June, in Brussels.

The main objective of the reunion was discussing and approving the FNC Progress Report by the defence ministers, as well as coordinating common efforts for the near future.

The active commitment to this initiative contributes to the consolidation of Romania's position within Allied context and demonstrates our country's commitment for the joint development of forces and capabilities necessary to reach the Alliance level of ambition, by means of increasing cooperation among European Allies.



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The talks agenda of the first day of the NATO Defence Ministers' Reunion

The two working sessions in Allied format which took place the first day of the NATO Defence Ministerial from Brussels focused on the nuclear deterrence posture of the Alliance, as well as on the changes and implications for the Organization with respect to the further developments regarding the Intermediate Nuclear Forces Treaty (INF).

Defence Minister Gabriel Leş reiterated the importance of the allied unity and indivisibility, as fundamental premises necessary to formulate certain coherent answers to the current challenges.

The last series of consultations took place in the format of a working dinner, with the participation of the High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the European Commission, Federica Mogherini, and of the Swedish and Finnish representatives and focused on the impact of the disruptive technologies development on the collective defence, as well as on aspects related to the cooperation between NATO and UE in the field of defence. In this context, the Allied ministers presented the national initiatives in the field of innovation and debated on the challenges posed by these at the level of the NATO policies.

The Romanian defence minister emphasized the fact that the investments at national level as well as the collaborative projects at Allied level must become an important cooperation subject between the European Union and NATO.

The second day of the NATO Defence Ministerial from Brussels

On the second day of the reunion, on June 27, the Allied Defence Ministers had an exchange of opinions on the implementation status of the enforced defence and deterrence posture and the equitable burden sharing of responsibilities within the Alliance.

Aspects referring to the implementation of NATO Readiness Initiative - NRI, the enforcement of the Alliance's maritime posture as well as the progress made in the implementation of the commitment of the member states with regard to ensuring the defence allocated resources, adopted at the 2014 Wales Summit, on all its three dimensions - 3 Cs (financial contributions, capabilities, contributions to operations and missions) were approached. The Romanian official presented his counterparts Romania's efforts in consolidating the Tailored Forward Presence – tFP at the Black Sea, at the same time appealing for the boosting of allied troops within the multinational forces operating on national territory.

During the working session dedicated to NATO operations and missions, the officials tackled the NATO allies and partners contributions to Resolute Support Mission - RSM, as well as the evolution of the peace negotiation process from Afghanistan. In this context, the Romanian defence minister reiterated his support for Afghanistan stabilization effort, the proof being Romania's significant and constant contribution in this theater of operations. Also, Gabriel Leş emphasized the need to consolidate the Afghan security and defence institutions, including the educational institutions from this vital fields.

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Bilateral meetings of the defence minister at the NATO Defence Ministerial from Brussels

As part of the NATO Defence Ministerial from Brussels, defence minister Gabriel Leş had two bilateral working sessions with the French Defence Minister, Florence Parly, and his Georgian counterpart, Levan Izoria.

The meeting with the French counterpart was a good opportunity for continuing the talks on the regional security situation as



Defence Minister Gabriel Leş together with the French defence minister, Florence Parly

well as on a series of relevant topics listed on NATO's agenda. The officials approached topics regarding cooperation at bilateral level, with focus on further developing the Romanian-French strategic dialogue in the ground, air and maritime fields with a view of consolidating the interoperability of the two countries' armed forces as well as of encouraging the development of the long-term partnership.

Aspects of the cooperation among EU, ANTI-ISIL/DAESH Global Coalition and Romania's and France's contribution with troops in UN peace-keeping operations were also approached during the ministerial.

During the talks with his counterpart from Georgia, Levan Izoria, the officials exchanged opinions on the security situation from the Black Sea as well as on the contributions of the two states to the international security. Also, the perspectives of the bilateral cooperation development in the field of defence were also reviewed.

At the end of the meeting, minister Leş saluted the progresses made by Georgia in the implementation of the reforms in the field of security and defence and reiterated Romania's support of the Georgian Euro-Atlantic aspirations.