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Bulgarian Defence Minister Nikolai Nenchev and his Serbian counterpart Zoran Djordjevic have held talks in Nis on steps against a possible increase in illegal migration and people-trafficking, including exchange of information and the possible deployment of the Bulgarian military to assist Border Police at the Serbian border.

Nenchev assured Djordjevic that were the Bulgarian military to be deployed at the Serbian border, the sole purpose would be to assist Interior Ministry staff there.

The Bulgarian Defence Ministers talks with his Serbian counterpart were part of a series in which he has already met the defence ministers from Skopje and Bucharest and will hold meetings with the defence ministers of Greece and Turkey, the last-mentioned at a joint Bulgarian-Turkish government expected in mid-April 2016.

Nenchev said that eight joint exercises with the Serbian army were planned for 2016. He said that he and his Serbian counterpart had agreed to step up co-operation in health, education and military training.

Bulgarian and Serbian delegations at the March 23 meeting condemned the acts of terrorism in Brussels and said that more than ever, co-operation was necessary to neutralise terrorist threats.

I believe that this meeting will bring new momentum to our co-operation, Nenchev said after the talks.

By Clive Leviev-Sawyer of The Sofia Globe

<http://www.balkaneu.com/europe-migrant-crisis-bulgarian-military-guard-border-serbia/#sthash.3JqbzOdg.dpuf>

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