
NATO TO SET UP SPECIAL UNIT IN ROMANIA. DEFENCE MINISTER SAYS 13 COUNTRIES ARE READY TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE MULTINATIONAL BRIGADE

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After a year of negotiations, NATO has approved on Thursday the establishment of a special unit to monitor risks in the Black Sea region.

The structure will operate under NATO's maritime headquarters in the UK. It will have responsibilities in coordinating the naval exercises in the region, digi24.ro informs, quoting news.ro.

NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg has stated that the alliance is to complete the strengthening of the regional land and air position on the basis of a multinational brigade in Romania. Eight allies are ready to provide personnel for a brigade, other five allies have envisaged land and air forces for training and air police, Stoltenberg added. He stressed the increased maritime measures, a higher naval presence in the Black Sea for improved drills and warning exercises and coordination of the naval forces of the allied forces in the Black Sea, the sources inform.

Romania demanded at the past NATO summit the set up of a NATO centre for exercises at the Black Sea, however a decision has been postponed due to the position adopted by Bulgaria and Turkey.

In his turn, Romanian Defence Minister Gabriel Les has said that 13 allies are ready to take part with forces or troops, officers or financial support to the land force (the multinational brigade in Romania) as well as aircraft for air police over Romania. He also announced the decision to increase the NATO naval presence in the Black sea.

In a release sent by the MoD, the minister says the presence of the allied vessels in the Black Sea is normal to improve the interoperability of the Romanian Naval Forces with the ones of the allies. After the annexation of Crimea such operations have become more frequent as solidarity between the alliance states and to strengthen our defence.

This naval presence will include exercises and training that will involve NATO permanent naval forces, together with the vessels of the riparian allied states and other interested allies. NATO will coordinate these maritime activities which will enable enhanced surveillance by the Alliance of the situation in the region and coherence of NATO activities in the Black Sea and the maritime activities of the Alliance as a whole, minister Les said.

All these actions will be carried out in accordance with the Montreux Convention. The increased

NATO presence has a defensive character, is a balanced measure to increase interoperability and thus strengthening our defence capacity, Les added.

I believe the decision confirms the strategic role of the Black Sea as part of the Euro-Atlantic security and stability as well as the alliances solidarity to Romania, the defence minister said.

Putin: NATO keeps trying to draw Russia into confrontation

NATO is constantly trying to draw Russia into a confrontation, Russian President Vladimir Putin has said. He added that members of the alliance continue to interfere in Russias domestic affairs, rt.com reports.

The accusations came as Putin addressed senior members of the Russian intelligence agency FSB on Thursday. The president said that over the past years the global security situation has not improved, but on the contrary, many existing threats have only become more serious.

NATO with its newly-declared official mission to deter Russia is one such threat, Putin said.

This is the goal behind the expansion of this military bloc. It happened before, but now they have found a new justification which they believe to be serious, Putin said.

In fact, they are constantly provoking us, trying to drag us into a confrontation, Putin stated, adding that NATO members are continuing their efforts to interfere in our domestic affairs with the goal of destabilizing social and political order in Russia proper.

Putin added that foreign intelligence agencies continue intensive operations in Russia, rt.com also informs.

In the past year 53 foreign intelligence operatives and 386 agents of foreign intelligence services have been busted, he said.

Vladimir Putin also expressed regret over Russia and Western nations no longer coordinating efforts to fight against common enemies such as terrorist groups.

Its in everyones interest to resume dialogue between the intelligence agencies of the United States and other members of NATO, Putin said./IBNA

Source: romaniajournal.ro

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