



JOINT STATEMENT OF THE BUCHAREST 9 DEFENCE MINISTERS

(Bucharest, 25-26 November 2021)

1. We, the Defence Ministers of Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Lithuania, Latvia, Poland, Romania and the Slovak Republic met in the Bucharest 9 format for consultation, cooperation and coordination aiming at strengthening the security and defence of our countries, as well of NATO and the EU.
2. We have stressed that NATO and the EU are facing various threats and challenges emanating from all strategic directions and have expressed growing concern and full solidarity with Poland, Lithuania and Latvia about the ongoing hybrid attack of the Belarusian regime at the border with NATO and the EU. We stress the Bucharest 9 unity regarding this current hybrid crisis and welcome NATO and EU coherence on this issue.
3. We also have expressed increased concern about Russia's actions along the NATO Eastern flank, particularly the Russian military build-up, including along the Ukraine's borders. We stress the Bucharest 9 unity and strong support to further strengthening NATO deterrence and defence, so that the Alliance is fully and timely prepared to ensure the security and integrity of all Allies, including from the Baltic Sea to the Black Sea. We agree that, as a part of this process, full and timely implementation of new allied military planning construct and concepts, and NATO force structure modernization, are of particular importance.