

**Joint Declaration of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania  
and the Government of the Republic of Poland  
agreed at the third Intergovernmental Consultations**

Vilnius, 16 September 2022

We, the Heads of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania and the Government of the Republic of Poland, declare, on behalf of our Governments, the following:

The enduring strategic partnership between Lithuania and Poland has acquired a new significance in the face of the ongoing war in our continent. Security of our countries and our region has become a central point in our bilateral cooperation this year.

We condemn in the strongest possible terms Russia's unprovoked and unjustified invasion and its brutal war against Ukraine, which has shaken the European and global security architecture. War crimes, including targeting of civilians, countless sufferings, enormous destruction, nuclear terrorism, and the weaponization of energy and food - these and other actions by the Russian Federation pose a challenge to the entire democratic world and threaten the rules-based international order. This is a moment when free and democratic nations must show unity and perseverance in countering the aggressor.

Lithuania and Poland continue to stand firmly with Ukraine. Our countries and societies have welcomed Ukrainian refugees. Over the past year, Poland and Lithuania have faced two different but interrelated events: a hybrid attack from Belarus using migration, and the admission of refugees from Ukraine. Poland and Lithuania expect further and in-depth support from the EU, including financial assistance, in the face of the challenges related to the number of war refugees staying on the territory of our countries, also appropriate countermeasures in the face of the instrumentalization of migration.

We will continue our unwavering support to Ukraine politically, economically, financially, and militarily so as to help Ukraine exercise its inherent right of self-defence against the Russian aggression and win this war. We appreciate the unprecedented EU decision to provide Ukraine with military aid through the European Peace Facility. We welcome the start of work on deployment of EU military advisory mission in support of Ukraine. We also welcome the 2022 NATO Summit decision on a strengthened Comprehensive Assistance Package for Ukraine that aims to accelerate the delivery of non-lethal defence equipment, improve Ukraine's cyber defences and resilience, and support modernising its defence sector in its transition to strengthen long-term interoperability with NATO.

We will coordinate our efforts, bilaterally and within the EU and NATO, in helping Ukraine to reconstruct the country, strengthen its resilience, and implement all the reforms, including in the area of health, education, science and sport, on the country's European and Euro-Atlantic path. A strong, independent Ukraine is vital for the stability of the Euro-Atlantic area.

We wholeheartedly welcome the candidate status granted by the European Union to Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova, as well as the membership perspective to Georgia and underline the importance of continuing the process with a swift opening of the EU accession negotiations.

We look forward to working further with Ukraine in the Lublin Triangle format on the common challenges and opportunities underlying this regional cooperation. Deepening cultural cooperation in that format, Lithuania and Poland will continue to provide political support to Ukraine at national, EU, and international levels, promote the involvement of Ukraine's cultural and creative sectors in projects funded by national and EU instruments, and provide support for the restoration of Ukraine's destroyed cultural heritage.

We stress the need for maintained pressure, through further individual and sectoral European Union's restrictive measures, on Russia and Belarus limiting their ability to continue the war in Ukraine. Sanctions must also be strengthened against Belarus for its involvement in the war in Ukraine. Lithuania and Poland agree that the EU sanctions should have fewer derogations and exemptions.

An illustration of this unity was the establishing of a Joint Investigation Team (JIT) by Poland, Ukraine, and Lithuania with the participation of the International Criminal Court and Eurojust. It is the responsibility of the international community to bring justice to the victims. Lithuania and Poland emphasise that only through joint action will it be possible to hold the perpetrators of the crimes accountable and therefore they encourage support for the JIT's activities.

We emphasize the importance of ensuring the accountability of Russia for the international crimes being committed, including the international crime of aggression. Therefore, together with our other support to Ukraine, we will consistently support all legal efforts aimed at bringing justice to Ukraine and its people, including the establishment of an ad hoc Special tribunal for the crimes of aggression against Ukraine.

The historic NATO Madrid Summit has reaffirmed the unity and cohesion of the Allies, with landmark decisions to make NATO fit for purpose and ensure our collective defence. We welcome the fundamental shift in NATO's deterrence and defence with particular emphasis on transition to modern forward defence on the Eastern Flank of the Alliance. The Baltic Sea area and particularly the Suwałki corridor remains of strategic importance to security of the whole region and the Alliance. Deep military integration between Russia and Belarus and the role that Minsk played in aggression against Ukraine constitute major threat to the regional stability. We continue to develop our relations on a bilateral level to contribute to NATO efforts to enhance deterrence and defence in the region. We reiterate the importance of focusing on the implementation of the Madrid Summit decisions on the way forward to the NATO Summit in Vilnius in 2023.

The NATO Open Door policy remains essential for promoting peace and stability in Europe. We look forward to welcoming Finland and Sweden as NATO members. The accession of Finland and Sweden to NATO will enhance our collective security and strengthen the Alliance.

We continue to fully support the Euro-Atlantic aspirations of Ukraine and Georgia and reiterate the importance of enhanced cooperation to ensure closer military interoperability and political NATO-Ukraine and NATO-Georgia alignment.

Lithuania and Poland agree that the discussion on the reform of the Stability and Growth Pact should continue. We share the opinion that the common fiscal rules, especially in terms of defence expenditure, need to be more realistic. They should allow us to respond adequately to emerging fundamental challenges that pose risks to the EU's and its Member States' very existence, sovereignty and territorial integrity.

In the face of the energy prices crisis due to Russia's war, Lithuania and Poland share a common aim to mitigate the rising energy prices and reduce the financial burden on households and industries. We also agree to work together to pursue a common EU level approach aimed to mitigate the current energy prices, establishing an efficient EU ETS allowances price regulation mechanism and be prepared for the upcoming winter season while preserving the integrity of the EU single energy market, maintaining incentives for the energy transition, and keeping up the security of supply.

We emphasize readiness to intensify our energy cooperation and eliminate dependence on Russian energy resources. The increased energy independence, cooperation aimed to diversify routes and sources of supply, accelerated synchronisation of the Baltic electricity grids with the Continental European Network via Poland, and timely development of zero emission energy projects - are key elements to ensure our resilience in the long-term.

Our partnership will focus on increasing the strategic resilience along the Eastern border of the EU through the development of new transport corridors between Ukraine and the Baltic Sea ports. The security of the supply chains must be enhanced by strengthening the existing transportation routes bypassing Russia. The stepping up of the implementation of the ongoing strategic road and rail transport projects will deliver infrastructure which is vital for regional economic development as well as necessary for military mobility needs.

We express great interest in initiating and leading new connectivity projects and services, looking forward to the extension of such services to Ukraine and wider region.

We remain dedicated to protecting the rights of the Polish minority in Lithuania and the Lithuanian minority in Poland, bearing in mind our commitments in this area that result from the Polish – Lithuanian Treaty on Friendly Relations and Good Neighbourly Cooperation as well as our international obligations. We are committed to maintaining and strengthening high-quality education to national minorities to enable young people to retain their cultural identity as well as to become the advocates of civic values in their own countries and the whole world.

We encourage and strongly support the informal and formal participation of the EU candidate countries and Eastern Partnership states in EU policies and Eastern Partnership programmes, such as the TEN-T Network. The same applies to the cooperation of these countries with the Three Seas Initiative.

We are also committed to continue cooperation aimed at enhancing administrative cooperation in the tax area, within EU legal frameworks, including the exchange of tax information, knowledge, and new technologies, as a crucial measure for the effective fight against VAT fraud.

We remain committed to protecting the external border of the European Union and Schengen area and ensuring a high level of security for the citizens. We will continue seeking legal instruments and practical solutions at the European Union level, which will enable building resilience against any attempts by third countries to use hybrid attacks, including through the instrumentalization of irregular migration and the misuse of international humanitarian law to achieve their political goals.