

”Romania after the Warsaw Summit. Our contribution to a safer security environment in the Black Sea region”

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During the Alliance Summit in Warsaw (July 8-9) and the Meeting of NATO Ministers of Defense in Brussels (October 25-26) major decisions for the security of the Black Sea region were adopted. The strategic importance of this region and the growing role that Russia attaches to this area were highlighted in the NATO Summit final declaration, which refers to “the deliberate destabilisation of eastern Ukraine; large-scale snap exercises contrary to the spirit of the Vienna Document, and provocative military activities near NATO borders, including in the Baltic and Black Sea regions and the Eastern Mediterranean; and its repeated violations of NATO Allied airspace. In addition, Russia's military intervention, significant military presence and support for the regime in Syria, and its use of its military presence in the Black Sea to project power into the Eastern Mediterranean have posed further risks and challenges for the security of Allies and others”. NATO sent a political signal in Warsaw about being concerned by “Russia's efforts and stated plans for further military build-up in the Black Sea region”. The decision envisaged the development of a “tailored forward presence in the southeast part of the Alliance territory”, meaning in the Black Sea region. These measures include “the Romanian initiative to establish a multinational framework brigade to help improve integrated training of Allied units under Headquarters Multinational Division Southeast”. Also, the Warsaw document makes reference to the improvement of NATO maritime presence, another issue of major concern for Romania.

The Meeting of NATO Ministers of Defense has marked the next step, namely the beginning of military implementation of policy decisions made in Warsaw. Thanks to the national political and military efforts, Romania has succeeded to put on the Alliance's agenda the need to strengthen the Allied military presence in the south-east region of the eastern flank of NATO. At the end of the Meeting, NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg has announced that “we will take tailored measures to enhance our defence and deterrence in the Black Sea region” and “several nations indicated their willingness to contribute to our presence in the Black Sea region, on land, at sea and in the air. Including Canada, Germany, the Netherlands, Poland, Turkey and the United States”. Until the next meeting of the Defense Ministers in February 2017, the military and political negotiations process will continue in full. The debate organized today by New Strategy Center is privileged to have as speakers two personalities involved in this negotiating process, vital to the security interests of Romania - Mr. Stefan Tinca, State Secretary for Defence Policy and Planning in the Ministry of Defence, and Mr. General Nicolae Ciuca, the Chief of Romanian General Staff.