



**Meeting of the Security and Defence Committee of the Baltic Assembly
Visit to the Air Base of the Lithuanian Air Force**

19 September 2025, Panevėžys&Šiauliai (Lithuania)

PROGRAMME

Friday, 19 September	
08:00–10:00	<p>Growing strong together: promoting cooperation of the military industry in the Baltic States</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">— Status update on the current military industry in the Baltic States— Strategic importance of regional military industry cooperation (e.g. benefits of coordinated defence manufacturing)— Cooperation in creating a strong, competitive and financially successful military industry in the Baltic States— Role of the Baltic military industry cooperation within NATO— Opportunities for the usage of emerging technologies such as AI in the cooperation of the military industries <p><i>Chaired by Chair of the BA Security and Defence Committee Uģis Rotbergs</i></p>
	<p>Introductory report by Mr Roberts Kits, Researcher at the Latvian Strategy and Economic Research Institute LaSER, author of the research “Moving Toward the Baltic Tiger. How to Strengthen Defense Cooperation Among the Baltic States”.</p>
	<p>Governmental positions of the Baltic States</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">— Mr Karolis Aleksa, Vice-Minister of National Defence, Lithuania— Mr Rolands Heniņš, Undersecretary of State, Policy Director, Ministry of Defence, Latvia— Mr Miiko Peris, Director of Defence Industry Development Department, Ministry of Defence, Estonia <p>Debates/Q&A/Conclusions for the BA recommendations</p>

10:00–12:00	<p>Advancing regional defence in the Baltic States through a common defence area</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Developments in the establishment of a Baltic common defence area — Ensuring interoperability of military equipment and systems in the Baltics (e.g. standardising equipment, protocols and communication systems) — Common defence capabilities and shared military infrastructure — Strengthening the medium-range and long-range air defence, and coastal and maritime defence capabilities (<i>BA recommendation</i>) — Strengthening the single airspace corridor from Poland to Finland and solving military mobility challenges in the Suwalki Gap (<i>BA recommendation</i>) — Cooperation with like-minded EU countries towards increasing the EU funding for military mobility projects (<i>BA recommendation</i>) <p><i>Chaired by Chair of the BA Security and Defence Committee Uģis Rotbergs</i></p>
	<p>Introductory report on the conclusions of the military cooperation of the Baltic States, based on the book “Three Decades of Baltic Military Cooperation and the Way Ahead” (2024):¹</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Dr Māris Andžāns, Director of the Center for Geopolitical Studies Riga, Associate Professor at Riga Stradins University
	<p>Governmental positions of the Baltic States</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Mr Karolis Aleksa, Vice-Minister of National Defence, Lithuania — Mr Rolands Heniņš, Undersecretary of State, Policy Director, Ministry of Defence, Latvia — Mr Rasmus Kork, Adviser on Crisis Management, Ministry of Defence, Estonia <p>Debates/Q&A/Conclusions for the BA recommendations</p>
13:00	Arrival at the Air Base of the Lithuanian Air Force
13:00–13:20	Brief introduction to the Air Base by Lt Col Eligijus Rukšnaitis , Commander, LTAF Air Base
13:30–14:00	AB LT part (aircraft inspection, unmanned aircraft inspection)
14:15–15:00	Introduction to the Hungarian/Spanish detachment, inspection of fighter jets

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¹ Read more here: <https://www.geopolitics.center/outputs/three-decades-of-baltic-military-cooperation-and-the-way-ahead>