



## Meeting of the Security and Defence Committee of the Baltic Assembly

20-21 January 2022, Riga (Latvia)

*Pulman Riga Old Town*

*Jēkaba str.24*

### Programme

Friday, 21 January	
09:00-10:30	<p><b>Existing and future challenges in addressing security challenges in the EU's eastern border</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>— Evaluation of the cross-border cooperation of the Baltic states and Poland</li><li>— Gaps and possibilities in the cooperation of the Baltic states to ensure timely and adequate response to crises in the border areas</li><li>— Challenges and lessons learned in the external border maintenance and control of the Baltic states</li><li>— Timely exchange of information and experience between competent agencies to address existing and future challenges in the border areas of the Baltic states</li></ul> <p><b>Introductory report</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>— <b>Mr Mārcis Balodis</b>, Researcher at the Centre for East European Policy Studies</li></ul> <p><b>Governmental positions of the Baltic states</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>— <b>Ms Līga Neidere</b>, Adviser to the Minister, Ministry of Interior, Latvia</li><li>— <b>Mr Veiko Kommusaar</b>, Undersecretary for Internal Security, Migration and Public Order, Ministry of the Interior, Estonia <i>Video message</i></li><li>— <b>Mr Laurynas Kasčiūnas</b>, Chair of the Seimas Committee on National Security and Defence, Lithuania</li><li>— <b>Mr Darius Domarkas</b>, Head of Public Security Policy Group, Ministry of the Interior, Lithuania</li></ul> <p>Debates Conclusions for the BA recommendations</p>
11:00-12:30	<p><b>Cooperation of the Baltic states in combatting organised crime: Assessment of the situation and joint activities to address modern challenges</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>— Overall evaluation of the activities of organized crime in the Baltic states</li><li>— Strengthening the cooperation of the Baltic states to combat organized crime in the region</li></ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— Exchange of information and experience between competent agencies to combat organized crime and implement preventive measures</li> <li>— Joint actions in the fight against criminal networks, human trafficking, illegal drugs, illicit goods and financial fraud</li> </ul> <p><b>Introductory report</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— <b>Ms Alina Arucsandei</b>, Senior Analyst, Head of the Office Strategic Analysis at the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation (Europol) <i>Video message</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Governmental positions of the Baltic states</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— <b>Mr Jānis Bekmanis</b>, Deputy State Secretary, Ministry of Interior, Latvia</li> <li>— <b>Mr Veiko Kommusaar</b>, Undersecretary for Internal Security, Migration and Public Order, Ministry of the Interior, Estonia <i>Videomessage</i></li> <li>— <b>Mr Arūnas Paulauskas</b>, Deputy Police Commissioner General, Police Department, Lithuania</li> </ul> <p>Debates Conclusions for the BA recommendations</p>
13:30-14:00	<p><b>Governmental report: Implementation of the recommendations of the Baltic Assembly in 2021 and plans for 2022</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— <i>Preparing a plan of the Baltic states for effective implementation of border checks during crisis situations, including seeking ways to solve issues, such as inadequate road infrastructure in the border regions and insufficient human resources</i></li> <li>— <i>Establishing an early warning procedure about the closing of the Baltic borders reducing the risk of uncoordinated activities and ensuring the continuation of the daily lives of citizens in the border areas</i></li> <li>— <i>Implementing common standards to improve situational awareness and increase reaction capability at external borders of the Baltic states based on the requirements of the European Border Surveillance System</i></li> <li>— <i>Evaluating successes and failures of the agreement of the Baltic states to lift travel restrictions and ensure free movement of the residents by land, sea and air or the so-called “Baltic bubble” agreement</i></li> <li>— <i>Intensifying cross-border cooperation of the Baltic states, including addressing challenges posed by the spread of COVID-19, as well as the situation in Belarus and the hybrid attacks to Latvia, Lithuania and Poland</i></li> </ul> <p>— <b>Ms Līga Neidere</b>, Adviser to the Minister, Ministry of Interior, Latvia</p>
14:00-14:30	<p><b>Governmental report: Implementation of the recommendations of the Baltic Assembly in 2021 and plans for 2022</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— <i>Developing the concept for a comprehensive security model of crisis preparedness coordination in the Baltic states</i></li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— <i>Regular communication and exchange of information between the relevant institutions of the Baltic states in the field of disaster prevention, preparedness and response, crisis management and civil protection</i></li> <li>— <i>Implementation of the Agreement on Cooperation in Disaster Response in the Baltic states, which was ratified by the national parliaments in 2018 and discuss within the framework of 3B working group the possibility of concluding operational agreements</i></li> <li>— <i>Eliminating gaps regarding civil protection and disaster preparedness in cross-border cooperation of the Baltic states</i></li> </ul> <p>— <b>Mr Vilmantas Vitkauskas</b>, Head of Threat Management and Crisis Prevention Group, Office of the Government, Lithuania</p>
14:30-15:00	<p><b>Governmental report: Implementation of the recommendations of the Baltic Assembly in 2021 and plans for 2022</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— <i>Evaluating the corresponding security threats in the Baltic states and constructing a practical response to increase the resilience of the Baltic society</i></li> </ul> <p>— <b>Mr Ivo Juurvee, PhD</b>, Head of Security &amp; Resilience Programme, Research Fellow, International Centre for Defence and Security</p>
15:00	Internal meeting of the Security and Defence Committee

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