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ROMANIAN MILITARY NEWSLETTER

Romanian Defence Minister at NATO Defence Minister's Meeting

Special points of interests:

- Romanian Defence Minister at NATO Defence Minister's Meeting
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- Defence Minister's visited the Romanian patients, badly injured in the Colective night club fire, treated to "Queen Astrid" Military Hospital
- Official meeting between the Romanian and Belgian Defence Ministers at Brussels-eveniment
- Defence Minister had official talks with NATO Secretary General and the Chairman of the Military Committee



The Defence Minister at NATO Defence Ministers' Meeting

The Minister of National Defence, Mihnea Motoc, participated in NATO Defence Ministerial that was held at NATO Headquarters in Brussels, on Wednesday 10 and Thursday 11 February 2016.

The agenda of the meeting focused on the developments related to NATO adaptation to the new security environment, with a view to preparing the decisions to be adopted by the chiefs of states and governments at NATO Summit in Warsaw.

The defence ministers adopted decisions meant to continue the processes of implementing NATO's Readiness Action Plan, adapting the allied defence and deterrence posture, countering hybrid and cyber threats,



rendering operational the allied missile defence system, maintaining the commitment to the mission in Afghanistan and ensuring the defence budget.

The Romanian defence minister saluted the progresses made in implementing RAP and spoke of Romania's contribution to the process and mentioned the double national contribution to the enhanced NATO Response Force- eNRF, the progress in activating and rendering operational of the NFIU and the Multinational Division South-East, the enhanced participation in training exercises and activities. He restated the pledge made by the Romanian authorities to increase the defence budget until NATO goal is met of allotting two percent of the GDP from 2017 on. Minister Motoc endorsed the decisions concerning an enhanced forward allied presence to the east and presented Romania's vision on the measures that could be taken in this respect in the South of the Eastern flank of NATO.

While participating in NATO Defence Ministers Meeting, the Romanian defence minister, Mihnea Motoc, met with General Philip M. Breedlove, Supreme Allied Commander Europe (SACEUR), on Wednesday, February 10. Minister Motoc talked of Romania's goals in terms of defence, the determination and capacity of our country to carry out the tasks it has as an allied state, thus contributing to meeting the objectives and carrying out allied missions.

The talks agenda included allied priorities from the perspective of the Warsaw Summit, implementing the Readiness Action Plan, NATO's long-term adaptation, development of defence capabilities, NATO commitment in Afghanistan and ensuring the necessary defence resources. Several aspects of mutual interest were discussed related to implementing the European Reassurance Initiative (ERI) and the European Activities Set (EAS).

Minister Motoc emphasized that the complete implementation of RAP is a priority for Romanian authorities as deadlines agreed upon and along the following lines: rendering NATO command and control structures in Romania fully operational, increasing our contribution to rendering operational the improved NATO Response Force, an increased participation in multinational exercises organized at home and in the Black Sea region.

Consolidation of a long-term allied presence on NATO's eastern flank was highlighted during the talks, not only by continuing the reassurance measures but also by developing the deterrence dimension and augmenting the allied presence on the territories of the Eastern allies. Emphasized was also a special interest for identifying the best ways to consolidate stability and security on the eastern flank, including the Black Sea region.

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Informal Meeting of EU Defence Ministers from Amsterdam

Romanian Defence Minister advocated the allotment of adequate resources necessary to develop certain robust capabilities at European level

The Minister of National Defence, Mihnea Motoc, participated in the Informal Meeting of EU Defence Ministers, held in Amsterdam, over 4 and 5 February.

With a view to developing the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP), the Netherlands Presidency of the Council addressed the three lines of action agreed upon at the CE reunion of December 2013 and then reiterated in 2015, namely increasing the efficiency, visibility and impact of the Common Security and Defence Policy, developing capabilities and consolidating European defence industry.

During the talks on defence cooperation and the European Commission Action Plan that took place at the ministerial held in Amsterdam, the Minister of National Defence, Mihnea Motoc, pointed out that Romania considers it is important that political decision-makers stay interested in the military field and that an adequate level of resources should be allotted for the development of robust capabilities at European level.

The meeting addressed the current European operations and missions, under the European Defence and Security Policy aegis focusing on Sahel, Horn of Africa and the Central African Republic. In this context, Romania reconfirmed its support for the EU initiatives conducted in Africa, especially the efforts to counter maritime piracy and consolidating security in the Horn of Africa.

Views were exchanged on the future EU Global Strategy to be completed by the European Council Reunion of June 2016.

The reunion was attended by NATO Secretary General, Jens Stoltenberg, whose speech highlighted the importance of the two high level reunions of this summer, NATO Summit in Warsaw and the European Council, that should identify new opportunities of cooperation between EU and NATO.



Informal Meeting of EU Defence Ministers –
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The importance and significance for European security of the recent announcement made by Obama Administration, that talked of a substantial increase of the European Reassurance Initiative, was highlighted in the interventions of both Secretary General Stoltenberg, defence minister Motoc and other officials.

NATO Deputy-Secretary General, Alexander Vershbow, and United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Hervé Ladsous, also attended the meetings.

Meeting of Defence Minister Mihnea Motoc with His French Counterpart Jean-Yves Le Drian

Defence minister Mihnea Motoc had a meeting with the French defence minister, Jean-Yves Le Drian during the Informal Meeting of EU Defence Ministers, held in Amsterdam.

The talks agenda included bilateral defence cooperation, especially in the technical, military and defence intelligence, the regional security situation and aspects concerning cooperation within the international organizations.

With a view to the future NATO Summit in Warsaw, minister Motoc pointed out the importance of maintaining the principles of cohesion and unity within the Alliance and the need to continue the organization's process of adaptation to the new security environment, with a focus on the essential role of consolidating the presence of the allies on the Eastern flank and at the Black Sea.

The Romanian minister said that the EU Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP), represents a priority for Romania's defence policy architecture and mentioned our country's active support of the efforts to promote the Union as a credible and capable actor. During the talks, the officials discussed the specific contribution of Romania to the international fight against terror in the context of France's invoking Art. 42.7 of the EU Treaty.

With a view to strengthening bilateral relations, the French defence minister is going to invite his Romanian counterpart to make a visit in Paris.

Also, on February 3rd, Defence Minister Mihnea Motoc met with the Chief of the Defence Staff of the French Armed Forces, General Pierre de Villiers, who was paying a visit to Romania following the invitation of his Romanian counterpart. Topics referring to making operational the two NATO structures established on the territory of Romania-Multinational Division SouthEast and the NATO Force Integration Unit-as well as ways of intensifying bilateral cooperation by identifying new ways of cooperation were approached during the official talks.

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The Defence Minister Received the US Ambassador

The Minister of National Defence, Mihnea Motoc, received H.E. Hans Klemm, the U.S. Ambassador to Bucharest, at the defence ministry, Wednesday, February 3.

The two officials talked of continuing and deepening topics of common interest, as discussed during the visit of Victoria Nuland, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs in January this year.

During the talks, the two officials highlighted the need to consolidate cooperation in the region, given the complexity of the present security environment, the privileged character of the bilateral relations, the dynamic rhythm of the Strategic Partnership of Romania and the USA and the perspectives of intensifying defence cooperation as key elements of our national as well as regional security.

They discussed the perspectives of consolidating the Romanian defence capabilities and the specific ways to support this by the American side.

Defence Minister met with the Ambassador of the Republic of Moldova-eveniment

Defence Minister Mihnea Motoc met with His Excellency Mihai Gribincea, the Ambassador of the Republic of Moldova on Monday, January 25, at the Romanian ministry headquarters.

The official talks focused on subject matters regarding the current status and the opportunities of bilateral defence cooperation; the Romanian minister emphasized Romania's firm commitment in consolidating and supporting the modernization and transformation efforts of Republic of Moldova's armed force. The possibility of intensifying current cooperation within NATO and EU as well as within regional initiatives was another topic of the meeting agenda.

Ambassador Mihai Gribincea highlighted Republic of Moldova's interest in continuing the dialogue and the projects already initiated in the defence field between the two countries.



Defence Minister with the Ambassador of the Republic of Moldova

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Also, Minister Motoc punctuated the active participation of Chişinău in international community's efforts in the security field.

Defence Minister's visited the Romanian patients, badly injured in the Colective night club fire, treated to "Queen Astrid" Military Hospital

On Thursday, 21 January, Defence Minister Mihnea Motoc visited the Romanian patients badly injured in the Colective night club fire who were hospitalized in "Queen Astrid" Military Hospital, Brussels.

Minister Mihnea Motoc ensured the Romanian citizens treated in Belgium of our Government support throughout their hospitalization in the Belgian Armed Force's medical institution including of the support of Romania's military representatives in Brussels given in solving any emerging issues they may face.

As a follow-up to the dialogue and discussions initiated by Prime Minister Dacian Cioloş, Minister Motoc met with the doctors and the hospital leadership who informed him on the evolution of the health condition and the recovery status of the patients.

On this occasion, the Romanian minister awarded "Queen Astrid" Military Hospital and certain members of the medical team the Romanian Armed Force's Emblem of Honour with the peace mark as a token of appreciation for the medical care received by the Romanian patients who survived the tragedy of October 30, 2015.



Defence Minister's visit to Queen Astrid Military Hospital

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Official meeting between the Romanian and Belgian Defence Ministers at Brussels

Defence Minister Mihnea Motoc met with the Belgian Defence Minister Steven Vandeput at the Defence Ministry Headquarters of the Kingdom of Belgium, on Thursday, January 21.

The talks between the two officials tackled the Romanian-Belgian military cooperation both at bilateral level and within the international organizations the two states are part of; the two parties emphasized their openness towards consolidating their military relations by identifying certain projects.

Defence Minister Motoc highlighted the importance of maintaining the Alliance's cohesion and unity principles – in the context of the preparation of the Warsaw Summit agenda-by punctuating NATO's main role in consolidating its presence on the Eastern flank and in the Black Sea region.

Also, the Romanian minister mentioned that the development of security and defence of the European Union is a priority of Romania's defence policy, at the same time emphasizing our country's active support in promoting EU as a credible and able player within the international security environment.

Minister Mihnea Motoc thanked his Belgian counterpart for the support given to Romania following the tragic event produced at Colectiv Club (as of October 30, 2015) when eight patients who got serious burns were transferred to the Burn Centre of "Queen Astrid" Military Hospital, Brussels, where they benefitted from special medical care.



Defence Minister's visit to Queen Astrid Military Hospital

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Defence Minister had official talks with NATO Secretary General and the Chairman of the Military Committee

Defence Minister Mihnea Motoc met with NATO Secretary General, Jens Stoltenberg, at NATO Headquarters, Brussels, on Thursday, 21 January. The chief of General Staff, General Nicolae Ciucă, also participated in the meeting.

Topics of present interest for the North Atlantic Alliance were approached during the office calls, with focus on the implementation of the Readiness Action Plan (RAP), the Warsaw Summit agenda that is to take place this year, the evolution of the security situation in Afghanistan while continuing with Resolute Support Operation throughout 2016 as well as the assessment of the security threats at global and regional levels.

When evaluating RAP's implementation measures, minister Motoc emphasized Romania's active participation by increasing its contribution to NATO Response Force in terms of personnel and equipment (including air force means), as well as by significantly augmenting the number of international exercises conducted on the national territory, which allowed for the training of the Romanian soldiers with the ones fighting in the Response Forces structures. Defence Minister specified that this high training level will also be maintained in the next two years. Also, the minister highlighted the fact that two allied structures were established last year in Bucharest – NATO Force Integration Unit (NFIU), which recently reached its initial operational capability, and the Multinational Division SouthEast (activated on December 1, 2015) whose initial operational capability is to be achieved this year, while its full operational capability will be reached in 2018. These will offer additional options for the conduct of the Alliance's missions in this area from the NATO Eastern flank.

As for the preparation of the political decisions of the NATO Warsaw Summit, it was emphasized that additional measures (others than the ones stipulated in the RAP) must be taken with a view to consolidating NATO's defence and discouraging posture and continuing its adaptation to the new security environment.

In the same context, the Romanian defence minister punctuated the importance that must be given to the existing security situation from the Extended Black Sea Region; pragmatic defence and discouraging measures adapted to the specificity of this area must be agreed upon and implemented.

Also, defence minister declared that Romania will maintain for year 2016 Resolute Support Mission from Afghanistan the same contribution level from 2015, which counted almost 650 soldiers.

In the second part of his official visit to NATO Headquarters, defence minister Mihnea Motoc met with the Chairman of NATO Military Committee, General Petr Pavel.

The two officials discussed topics included in NATO's general agenda: Romania's contribution to the allied effort in implementing the RAP and to the military operations conducted by the Alliance in Afghanistan and Kosovo.