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# ROMANIAN MILITARY NEWSLETTER

## Defence Minister's Official Meeting with his Serbian Counterpart

### Special points of interests:

- Defence Minister's Official Meeting with his Serbian Counterpart
- Romanian Marines at the Multinational Joint Exercise BALTOPS 18
- Defence Minister's Visit to France
- Minister Fifor Participates in the Polish-Romanian Governmental Meeting in Warsaw



Defence minister Mihai Fifor and his Serbian counterpart, Aleksandar Vulin

On May 31<sup>st</sup>, the Minister of National Defence, Mihai Fifor, had an official meeting with his Serbian counterpart, Aleksandar Vulin, at the defence ministry, as part of the latter's official visit to Romania.

The talks agenda focused on developing bilateral cooperation projects and the security situation in the Western Balkans. Minister Fifor spoke of the support Romania gives Serbia's efforts to join EU.

The two officials expressed their openness to strengthen practical cooperation on defence with a view to ensuring stability and security in the region.

The visit was a good opportunity to continue the political and military dialogue and to improve the perspectives of developing bilateral cooperation on defence, taking into account the developments of the security situation in the region and the cooperation interests of both countries.

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## Romanian Marines at the Multinational Joint Exercise BALTOPS 18

The Romanian Navy will participate over May 31<sup>st</sup> to June 17<sup>th</sup> in the multinational exercise BALTOPS 18 (BALTIC OPERATIONS) with 30 Marines and two staff officers. This is the most ample joint-type exercise of Northern Europe that will take place on Nemirseta beach and Kairiai shooting range in Lithuania, on Ustka beach in Poland, in Kiel, Germany and in the international waters of the Baltic Sea.

BALTOPS 18 is an annual exercise organized and financed by EUCOM and conducted in the Baltic Sea and the adjacent areas.

The participation of the Romanian Marines in the exercise contributes significantly to the training level and the image of the Romanian Navy and Romania within the cooperation with structures belonging to NATO member countries.

## Defence Minister's Visit to France

The Minister of National Defence, Mihai Fifor, made an official visit to France over May 28<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> at the invitation of his French counterpart Florence Parly. Minister Mihai Fifor was accompanied by the State secretary for Defence Policy, Planning and International Relations, Mircea Duşa, and the State Secretary for Armament, Andrei Ignat.

The talks focused on aspects regarding the security situation in the Black Sea region and the prospects of developing the bilateral relations in the defence area, including in the technical-military area. They also discussed taking further the cooperation among European countries on defence.

As for the NATO context, the discussion agenda referred to the allied endeavors to ensure stability and security in the Black Sea region and keeping this topic on the agenda of the upcoming summit of July, highlighting the importance of continuing the French military presence in allied exercises carried out on the national territory.

The visit of the Defence Minister also included a meeting with Philippe Etienne, diplomatic adviser to the President and former ambassador of France to Romania. The agenda also included visits to MBDA and Airbus Helicopter companies.



The Minister of National Defence, Mihai Fifor, and the French Minister of Defence, Florence Parly

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During the official visit to France, the Minister of National Defence Mihai Fifor had a meeting with Florence Parly, the French Minister of Defence on Monday, May 28<sup>th</sup>, when they discussed developing bilateral cooperation and the priorities on NATO and the EU agenda.

The defence minister said that from an allied perspective coherence is required in planning and implementing the allied response in crisis or conflict situations as well as a fair contribution to the common efforts to ensure NATO's efficiency and to make the most of the Romanian-French cooperation options in this respect.

In view of preparing the future NATO Summit in Brussels of July, Mihai Fifor stressed the importance of keeping the topic of the security situation at the Black Sea on the agenda of the summit. They discussed about harmonizing of standpoints regarding security on the eastern flank on the occasion of the upcoming defence ministerial of NATO countries to take place over June 7<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup>.

In this respect, Florence Parly, reassured the Romanian delegation of France's support in ensuring an advanced presence, coherently adapted, in the region.

As Romania took over the rotating presidency of the Council of the European Union in January 2019, the two officials assessed the main internal challenges the EU is facing and the priorities both countries have regarding the continuation of advancing the European project on defence. Mihai Fifor stressed the interest of the Romanian side to consolidate projects such as PESCO, EDF and CARD.

The two officials also discussed such topics as the possibility of bilateral cooperation including in the technical-military field and they agreed on continuing discussions on different levels, with a view to developing European defence industries.

The two officials also talked of the importance to continue the political and military dialogue on topics of mutual interest on NATO and the EU agenda with a view to harmonizing national positions.

### **Minister Fifor Participates in the Polish-Romanian Governmental Meeting in Warsaw**

The Minister of National Defence, Mihai Fifor, participated in the Polish-Romanian Governmental Meeting held in Warsaw on Friday, May 25<sup>th</sup>, as part of the delegation headed by Romania's Prime Minister Viorica Dăncilă.

During the governmental consultations, a ceremony was held when the delegations signed the Bilateral Agreement on the judicial regime of Romanian military graves in Poland



Official meeting

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and the Polish military graves in Romania. The agreement was signed by the Minister of National Defence, Mihai Fifor, and Minister of Culture and National Heritage, Piotr Glinski.

Minister Fifor also had a meeting with his Polish counterpart, Mariusz Blaszczak, when they discussed the good dynamics of the Romanian-Polish Strategic Partnership on defence, the cooperation perspectives within NATO and the EU, as well as aspects of the bilateral military relations.

They also highlighted the harmonization of the national positions with a view to the agenda of the NATO Summit in Brussels to take place in July this year. In this respect, Minister Fifor stressed the importance of the stability in the Black Sea region for the consolidation of the entire allied eastern flank in general, against the background of the complex and unpredictable security situation in the region.

They also pointed out the good relations of the Romanian and Polish military and the major contribution of the two countries to ensuring a credible presence for deterrence and defence along the entire eastern flank of the Alliance. In this respect, they highlighted the importance of continuing the efforts to increase the level of interoperability between the allied forces by intensifying exercises in the Black and the Baltic Sea.

The two officials agreed on intensifying consultations on topics of interest for both parts, including cooperation in the technical and military field and defence industry.