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ROMANIAN MILITARY NEWSLETTER

Defence Minister's meeting with the Ambassador of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in Romania, at the MoND Headquarters

Special points of interests:

- Defence Minister's meeting with the Ambassador of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in Romania, at the MoND Headquarters
- Minister Fifor, at the NATO Defence Ministerial
- The MoND initiated the specific acquisition procedures of the "Mobile Surface-to-ship Missile Launching System" procurement program



Defence Minister Mihai Fifor and the Ambassador of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in Romania, Andrew Noble

Defence Minister Mihai Fifor had a meeting with the Ambassador of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in Romania, Andrew Noble, on Monday, October 8th, at the MoND headquarters.

During the talks, the officials tackled the Romanian-British cooperation in the field of defence, with focus on the relations within NATO as well as current topics listed on the European agenda. The Minister of National Defence emphasized the excellent collaboration between the two states within NATO and expressed his gratitude towards the contribution of the British Royal Air Force in the air policing missions conducted on Romanian territory over May to August, this year.

The European agenda comprised topics such as the increase of defence bilateral cooperation, minister Fifor reiterating our country's support

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in maintaining an intense dialogue and in developing the relations with its British partner in the fields of security and defence. In this respect, the officials emphasized the importance of signing the Memorandum of Understanding between the two states the two ministers agreed upon during the official visit paid by the State Secretary for Defence, Gavin Williamson, to Bucharest, in August, as well as during the discussions held at the NATO Defence Ministerial, from Brussels.

„The signing of this new cooperation framework between Romania and Great Britain, in the form of a Memorandum of Understanding in the field of defence will represent a strong signal of our excellent and long-term cooperation. At the same time, we sent the message that Romania would give a special importance to the trans-Atlantic relation while holding the Presidency of the European Union Council. In this context, I pointed out the essential role that the USA and Great Britain have in ensuring European security”, Mihai Fifor stated.

The defence minister expressed his conviction that the bilateral dialogue will continue its ascending trend and wished the British official success throughout his mandate in Bucharest.

Minister Fifor, at the NATO Defence Ministerial

Minister of National Defence, Mihai Fifor, participated in the Reunion of the NATO defence ministers, which took place at Brussels, over 3-4 October.

The activity taking place in the capital city of Belgium was an opportunity to evaluate the results of the July NATO Summit and to demonstrate the commitment of the allies with regard to the implementation of the decision adopted during the reunion.

The first day of the NATO Defence Ministers' Meeting, which took place at the Alliance General Headquarters, in Brussels, minister Mihai Fifor had bilateral meetings with his counterparts from Canada, Italy and Turkey.

During the talks with the Canadian defence minister, Harjit Singh Sajjan, the officials tackled the significant progress made by the Romanian and Canadian parties in the field of military cooperation both at bilateral level and within the Alliance, as well as the ways of consolidating this cooperation.



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The Romanian defence minister thanked minister Sajjan for the substantial contributions made by Canada to the consolidation of the Alliance Eastern flank, in the Black Sea region, as part of NATO's tailored Forward Presence"/tFP in the South-Eastern Europe, in all its three components- air, naval and ground, at the same time, expressing his hope that the level of these contributions will be also preserved in the near future, in the context of the evolution of the security environment.

In his turn, the Canadian defence minister emphasized the complexity of emergent security challenges in the Black Sea region, pointing out Canada's intention in preserving its military contribution in the region, as a powerful Allied solidarity message.

In this context, minister Mihai Fifor mentioned the excellent cooperation with his Canadian counterpart, highlighting the importance of the enhanced Air Policing mission currently conducted in our country by the Royal Canadian Air Force servicemen, together with the Romanian Air Force soldiers.

An important topic listed on the talks agenda was the collaboration in the field of psychological assistance, minister Fifor thanking the Canadian Armed forces for their valuable support given in the development of the establishment conception of a National Operational Psychological Center, in Bucharest.

During the meeting with Elisabetta Trenta, the Italian defence minister, the officials approached topics referring to the evolution of the defence cooperation relations, in the context of the strategic partnership between the two states. Minister Fifor appreciated Italy's contribution with regard to the implementation of the reassurance measures on NATO's Eastern flank, as part of the tFP, by assuming staff positions within the Headquarters Multinational Brigade South-East and emphasized the Romanian interest in the increased participation of the Italian partner in manning the NATO structures assigned on the Romanian territory. In this context, Mihai Fifor requested Italy's support in enabling our country's offer of hosting an army-corps level command and control capability (Multinational Corps South-East - MNC-SE).

The Italian defence minister thanked her Romanian counterpart for its significant contributions to the consolidation of defence of the Alliance Southern flank (Romania manning 26 positions in the Allied structures deployed in Italy) as well as for the excellent cooperation between the two armed forces during the operations conducted in Afghanistan, Western Balkans and Iraq.

Both parties agreed upon the need to continue the strategic dialogue at military and political levels, as well as on the enhancement of the joint military training and of the industrial collaboration for the development of defence capabilities.

The bilateral meeting with the Turkish defence minister, Hulusi Akar, mainly focused on topics referring to the security situation in the Black Sea region and on the ways of developing bilateral military cooperation. The Romanian defence minister emphasized the need for an overall approach of NATO's Eastern flank from North to South, as agreed upon at the Brussels Summit where, the security situation in the Black Sea region-following Romania's request- was a distinct topic on the meeting agenda. Minister Akar mentioned Turkey's support in the implementation of the reassurance measures on the Alliance Eastern flank and emphasized his country's interest in the development of the



cooperation relations in the technical-military field, pointing out the unexploited potential that could bring benefits to both parties.

The two ministers agreed on the need to continue the strategic military dialogue with a view of harmonizing the two countries' positions regarding the implementation of the collective security measures in the region.

The Romanian defence minister officially invited his counterparts to participate in the festivities organized in Bucharest on the occasion of the celebration of Romania's National Day, which, at the same time, marks the Centenary of the Great Union.

The second day of the NATO Defence Ministers' Meeting was dedicated to the Nuclear Planning Group reunion, followed by other two sessions of the North Atlantic Council – (NAC), in the defence ministers' format.

The first of the two NAC sessions focused on the NATO and EU cooperation and was attended by the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the European Commission, Federica Mogherini. At the same time, the defence ministers tackled with the EU official as well as with the Finish and Swedish defence ministers common interest topics such as military mobility and counteracting hybrid and cybernetic threats.

In this allocution, defence minister Mihai Fifor emphasized that, when holding the EU Chairmanship, Romania will pay a special attention to the consolidation of the trans-Atlantic relations by developing the European Defence policy in full accordance with NATO regulations.

In this context, minister Fifor emphasized the need to implement the decisions made at the Brussels Summit, with focus on the importance of countering the hybrid and cybernetic threats as well as the on the military mobility; in this respect, Romania is in favor of adopting common NATO-EU standards. At the same time, the defence minister pointed out the need to enhance cooperation between the two organizations with the pilot states in order to conduct NATO-EU activities with a view of building security and defence capabilities in the Republic of Moldova, Bosnia Herzegovina and Tunisia.

During the second NAC session, the officials evaluated the implementation status of NATO's deterrence and defence posture, with focus on the adaptation of the command structure and military reinforcement of the Alliance.

Minister Fifor also emphasized the importance of the implementation of the decisions agreed upon at the recent Summit in order to take credible and coherent measures that would provide for the defence of the entire Allied territory. The Romanian defence minister highlighted the importance of enabling our country's offer of hosting an army-corps level command and control capability (Multinational Corps South-East - MNC-SE) which would foster the command and control mechanisms and the Allied coordinated efforts in our region. Also, the defence minister expressed his appreciation for the support offered by the Allied Command Operations (SHAPE) and the United States European Command (US EUCOM) in the development of the MNC-SE concept and expressed the entire availability of the Romanian part in finalizing the planning process, together with NATO's military structures, so that it can be submitted for approval as soon as possible.



The MoND initiated the specific acquisition procedures of the “Mobile Surface-to-ship Missile Launching System ”procurement program

On Monday, October 1st, the Ministry of National Defence, through the Department for Armaments, initiated the specific acquisition procedure on the “Mobile Surface-to-ship Missile Launching System (MSMLS)” procurement program, by multiannual delivery contract, over 2018-2022, according to the provisions of Government Decision no. 630/2018.

The coastal batteries represent an essential defensive capability for Romania, as a Black Sea bordering state, which will provide for the defence of the littoral coastal zones against the threats posed by the surface ships.

Following the acquisition of the mobile surface-to-ship missile launching system, the Romanian Naval Forces will be able to conduct timely combat actions, all over the national littoral zone, from pre-established or unarranged positions, both during day and nighttime, no matter the hydro-meteorological conditions.

An essential criteria for the contract awarding will be the offset-type operations: the economic agent that will be attributed the multiannual contract will have the obligation to build, on the national territory, a manufacturing/assembly/testing and maintenance infrastructure at the level of a state-owned capital economic agent from the national defence industry, which is authorized and registered according to law .The economic agent must integrate the MSMLS components, perform maintenance operations throughout the life-cycle of the systems, so that the systems should not be sent outside the national territory for repair works during crisis and wartime and implement future MSMLS modernization solutions.