



H. E. Mr António Costa
President of the European Council

H. E. Mrs Ursula von der Leyen
President of the European Commission

20 June 2025

Dear Mister President,
Dear Madam President,

Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine and the resulting significant deterioration of the security environment have strongly affected all of Europe.

Russia is testing our deterrence and resilience through destabilizing and sabotage activities, particularly along the eastern borders of the EU. We face additional pressure from the weaponisation of migrants by Russia and Belarus.

The threat for the EU and its Member States is increasing so a more coordinated and robust strategic response is urgently needed. Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland are leading the way. We have made defence a clear priority with an ambition to spend 5% and more of GDP on defence. We are working closely together to reinforce border security and build a robust first line of defence for the entire Union.

The EU has repeatedly underlined the importance of building defensive installations and infrastructure on the borders with Russia and Belarus. The European Council conclusions of the 6th of March 2025 recognize that the defence of "all EU land, air and maritime borders contribute to the security of Europe as a whole, in particular as regards the EU's eastern border, considering the threats posed by Russia and Belarus". Additionally, the European Commission's "White Paper for European Defence - Readiness 2030" commends the Eastern Border Shield as an important way forward for EU level joint capability development.

The Baltic Defence Line and the Eastern Shield initiatives are aimed at strengthening counter-mobility capabilities along the EU and NATO's eastern border by developing a set of layered defensive measures to effectively prevent, disrupt, and deter potential enemy incursions. Coordination between the three Baltic States and Poland is already underway.

In this context, we ask to consider The Baltic Defence Line and the Eastern Shield initiatives as projects of common European interest and explore possibilities to support them by all possible EU instruments. We count on your positive response during an upcoming European Council meeting.

Sincerely,

Gitanas Nausėda

Evika Siliņa

Donald Tusk

Kristen Michal