

**STATEMENT  
OF THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE  
OF THE SAEIMA OF THE REPUBLIC OF LATVIA**

**On the security situation in Europe**

**The Foreign Affairs Committee of the Saeima**

*considers unacceptable* the increasing presence of the armed forces of the Russian Federation near Ukraine's borders and in the occupied Crimean Peninsula since the beginning of 2021, as well as the increased militarisation of the Black Sea and Sea of Azov regions, thus posing a greater threat to Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity and increasing the risks of instability in the entire Eastern European region;

*notes* that the above actions of the Russian Federation have been accompanied by growing interference and disinformation campaigns by this country's state officials and media in the European Union (EU), NATO Member States, and Ukraine with defamatory messages about Ukraine, and also NATO, in an attempt to justify the aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine;

*stresses* that the military actions and political statements of the Russian Federation, including demands from NATO concerning the sovereignty of third countries, the request for a *de facto* division of Europe into spheres of influence, and the threat that Russia is prepared to use "military-technical measures" in case of refusal to comply, pose a critical threat to the overall peace, stability, and security of Europe;

*recalls* that, in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, similar actions of military aggression against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of other states paved the way for unlawful use of force, resulting in the deprivation of independence of Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia and the partition of Poland between Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union;

*strongly condemns* the threatening and destabilising actions of the Russian Federation and calls for a de-escalation of tensions with Ukraine and an immediate withdrawal of its troops from the border with Ukraine to their permanent bases;

*calls on* the Russian Federation to de-escalate the situation and respect its international obligations and its responsibility to ensure transparency of military activities in accordance with the principles of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and the Vienna Document;

*recalls* the obligations of the Russian Federation under the Budapest Memorandum, the Helsinki Final Act and related documents, the Charter of Paris for a New Europe of 1990, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and the Council of Europe Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms;

*expects* the Russian Federation and the separatists it supports in the Donbas and Luhansk regions to respect the ceasefire agreement, to constructively engage in the Normandy format talks, and to immediately release all illegally detained and imprisoned Ukrainian citizens;

*stresses* that partner countries of Europe, including the partners of NATO and EU, have the sovereign right to choose their own paths of development, cooperation partners, and security solutions in order to guarantee their security and promote unimpeded development of democracy and economic prosperity;

*underlines* the indispensable importance of allies – both EU and NATO Member States – making a united and decisive response based on shared principles in deterring the Russian Federation;

*calls on* the governments of NATO and EU Member States and their allied partner governments to continue coordinating the development of intensified restrictive measures to deter the Russian Federation from further escalating the situation;

*insists* that the choice of any country to join NATO cannot be conditional on the consent of a third country;

*points out* that the values and fundamental principles of collective defence shared by the NATO alliance are firm and non-negotiable;

*supports* NATO's open-door policy and the agreement reached at the 2008 NATO Summit Meeting of Heads of State and Government in Bucharest that Ukraine and Georgia would become members of NATO;

*confirms* the unwavering support of the Republic of Latvia for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine within its internationally recognised borders, as well as its firm commitment to the continued support of Ukraine in accordance with its chosen course of development towards Euro-Atlantic integration.