



Regeringskansliet

Uttalande från Peter Hultqvist

Uttalande från försvarsministrarna inom JEF den 3 oktober 2022

Publicerad 03 oktober 2022

Uttalande från försvarsministrarna i länderna inom försvarssamarbetet Joint Expeditionary Force (JEF), i samband med ett digitalt möte den 3 oktober 2022.

Uttalandet på engelska i sin helhet nedan.

JEF Defence Ministers Statement

Following the deliberate damage caused to the Nord Stream pipelines in the Baltic Sea, today Defence Ministers of the Joint Expeditionary Force (JEF) met virtually to share assessments of the blatant and irresponsible attacks against critical civilian infrastructure.

The JEF condemns in the strongest terms the reckless sabotage in the Baltic Sea. It is discussing security responses, including increased maritime presence and intelligence surveillance and reconnaissance activities.

It will seek to deter further such acts, reassure allies and demonstrate collective commitment to the security and stability of the region. Ministers discussed increasing shared intelligence assessments to ensure common situational awareness, as well as cooperation to secure critical infrastructure. The JEF will ensure complementarity, alignment and transparency with NATO as well as the investigation led by Danish, Swedish and German authorities.

The JEF is a group of like-minded nations – Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, United Kingdom. The nations share the same purpose, values and a common focus on security and stability in the JEF core regions of the High North, North Atlantic and

Baltic Sea region.

The JEF provides a responsive, capable, and ready military force that undertakes integrated activities at sea, on land and in the air, across northern Europe. These activities are preventative and proportionate and demonstrate solidarity, capability, and resolve to stand together for security and stability in the JEF core regions.



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Uttalande från Peter Hultqvist

Uttalande från de nordiska försvarsministrarna den 30 september 2022

Publicerad 30 september 2022

Uttalande från de nordiska försvarsministrarna den 30 september 2022 i samband med en digital konsultation.

Uttalandet på engelska i sin helhet nedan.

Joint statement by the Nordic Ministers of Defence

We, the Nordic Ministers of Defence, are deeply concerned about the damage to the Nord Stream pipelines in international waters in the Baltic Sea. All information currently available points to a deliberate act of sabotage close to the national borders of Denmark and Sweden. It cannot be ruled out that this is a reckless attack on Europe's energy infrastructure and an attempt to destabilise the already tense security situation. The leaks from the pipelines are causing risks to civilian sea-traffic and substantial environmental damage.

Finland, Iceland and Norway stand ready to support Denmark and Sweden by any means possible in the investigation of the incident. We are in close contact with each other regarding the incident and the overall security situation in the Baltic Sea region and beyond.

Furthermore, the Nordic countries are determined in our support to Ukraine. We will not recognise the results of the illegal referenda or annexations.



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Uttalande från Peter Hultqvist

Gemensamt uttalande av försvarsministrarna från Sverige, Finland och Norge den 25 augusti 2022

Publicerad 25 augusti 2022

Gemensamt uttalande av försvarsminister Peter Hultqvist, Finlands försvarsminister Antti Kaikkonen och Norges försvarsminister Bjørn Arild Gram i samband med ett möte den 25 augusti i Finland. Uttalandet på engelska i sin helhet nedan:

The security situation has deteriorated following Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Russia has proved that it does not respect international law and has upended the European security order.

The security in northern Europe has been adversely impacted by this development. A crisis in our region affects us all. Therefore, we must be ready and able to act together in peace, crisis and conflict.

The increased military presence and activity in northern Europe underlines the importance of avoiding incidents. At several occasions, we have seen irresponsible and unprofessional Russian behaviour.

The North Calotte and adjacent areas are of strategic importance to the defence of our countries in the event of a crisis or war. Enhanced cooperation between our countries is therefore of utmost importance. Through increased cooperation we can achieve a more efficient defence of our countries. One of our major objectives is to coordinate and develop military operations planning between Finland, Sweden and Norway.

Our trilateral initiative facilitates such an enhanced cooperation. We can engage in preparing and conducting operations in the event of a crisis or conflict. We can take common responsibility and create prerequisites for, e.g., the protection of lines of communication as well as security of supply.

All together, this cooperation provides an opportunity to reduce vulnerabilities and increase the common security in the northern parts of our countries. This is a vital interest for Finland, Norway and Sweden and contributes to increased security in the entire region.



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Uttalande från Peter Hultqvist

Uttalande från försvarsministrarna inom Joint Expeditionary Force (JEF) den 15 juni 2022

Publicerad 15 juni 2022

Uttalande från försvarsministrarna för länderna som ingår i samarbetet Joint Expeditionary Force, gjort i samband med ett möte den 15 juni 2022 i Oslo, Norge.

Uttalandet på engelska i sin helhet nedan.

JEF defence ministers' statement: Finland and Sweden's application for NATO membership

Today, the Defence Ministers of the Joint Expeditionary Force (JEF) – comprising Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden and the UK – met in Oslo.

JEF Defence Ministers discussed current security challenges, including the implications of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, and considered the future development of the JEF to ensure it continues to make an effective contribution to security and stability in its core region of the High North, North Atlantic and Baltic Sea.

JEF Defence Ministers also took part in a table-top exercise to practise the JEF's role in responding to an escalating crisis, including the relationship between the JEF and NATO in such a scenario.

All JEF Defence Ministers strongly welcome Finland's and Sweden's applications for NATO membership. Each country has made its sovereign decision to join NATO after a clear, open and democratic process; they

share the Alliance's values and are modern, highly capable defence and security partners with whom together we will enhance our collective, transatlantic security.

The allied JEF Partners will stand shoulder-to-shoulder with Finland and Sweden in a spirit of solidarity through their accession to NATO membership. We shall work closely with our NATO Allies to integrate both Finland and Sweden into the Alliance as soon as possible.

The JEF shall engage in multi-domain activity across our core regions to provide enhanced levels of assurance to our Finnish and Swedish friends as they complete the process of joining NATO. This is in addition to the series of integrated activities and exercises in northern Europe that JEF Defence Ministers agreed at their meeting at Belvoir Castle on 21–22 February 2022.

We reaffirm the shared purpose and common resolve of the JEF to work together to enhance security and stability in northern Europe and be ready to respond to a wide range of contingencies, both in peacetime and at times of crisis and conflict; all in a way which is coherent with, and complementary to, the role of NATO.



Regeringskansliet

Uttalande från Peter Hultqvist

Uttalande från försvarsministrarna inom Norra gruppen den 8 juni 2022

Publicerad 08 juni 2022

Uttalande från försvarsministrarna från länderna inom Norra gruppen den 8 juni 2022 i samband med ett möte i Reykjavik, Island.

Uttalandet på engelska i sin helhet nedan.

Joint Statement by the Ministers of Defence of the Northern Group

The Ministers of Defence of the Northern Group met in Reykjavík, Iceland, on 8 June, and gave the following statement:

Today we, the Ministers, discussed the implications of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, which we condemn in the strongest possible terms. Russia's invasion has inflicted immeasurable destruction and suffering on the Ukrainian people, and is a threat to the security of Europe and the North Atlantic area. We stand with Ukraine and will continue to support Ukraine both militarily and politically against Russia's brutal and illegal aggression.

Today we also discussed the implications of global challenges to security in the northern regions, including the High North. We underline our strong political unity and cohesion in the face of threats to the security of our region. We will continue to strive to protect our common values of democracy, rule of law, freedom and human rights. We underline that the sanctity of internationally recognised borders is a bedrock principle of international relations. Any erosion of this principle represents a grave

danger to a system that is based on international law and rules-based order.

The Ministers of Defence of the Northern Group warmly welcome the sovereign decisions by Finland and Sweden to apply for NATO membership. This will improve our collective defence and enhance security and stability in Northern Europe. Denmark, Estonia, Germany, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, and the United Kingdom welcome Finland and Sweden's applications and will work for fast national ratification processes



Regeringskansliet

Uttalande från Peter Hultqvist

Uttalande från de nordiska försvarsministrarna den 24 maj 2022

Publicerad 24 maj 2022

Uttalande från de nordiska försvarsministrarna eller deras representanter den 24 maj 2022 i samband med ett möte på Bornholm, Danmark.

Uttalandet på engelska i sin helhet nedan. Sverige representerades under mötet av Jan-Olof Lind, statssekreterare hos försvarsminister Peter Hultqvist.

Statement by Nordic Ministers of Defence on Nordic Defence Cooperation

The Nordic Ministers of Defence warmly welcome the sovereign decisions by Finland and Sweden to apply for NATO membership. Denmark, Iceland and Norway welcome Finland and Sweden into the Alliance and will work for fast national ratification processes.

As we enter a new era of deeper defence relations, we, the Nordic Defence Ministers, remain committed to the Nordic defence cooperation (NORDEFECO). We share common interests concerning the complex and demanding security challenges in our region, including the Baltic Sea and the High North. These regions constitute a single area of operations and coordinated or joint operational planning among the Nordic countries is therefore key.

Finland and Sweden's decision will improve our collective defence, enhance security and stability, and strengthen the alliance in Northern Europe. We

will continue the political and military dialogue that is already well underway.

Today the Nordic Ministers and representatives met on Bornholm to discuss the security situation in our region. During the coming months we will strengthen our Nordic defence cooperation. As the Prime Ministers of Denmark, Iceland and Norway already have stated, Denmark, Iceland and Norway stand ready to assist Finland and Sweden by all means necessary, should they be the victim of aggression on their territory before obtaining NATO membership. Nordic military presence in our region will be enhanced through joint exercises, training and visits. These assurance activities underline our well-founded ability to operate together.

We have tasked our ministries to adapt NORDEFECO in light of the developments in Finland and Sweden.



Regeringskansliet

Uttalande från Peter Hultqvist

Uttalande från de nordiska försvarsministrarna den 11 maj 2022

Publicerad 11 maj 2022

Uttalande från de nordiska försvarsministrarna den 11 maj 2022 i samband med försvarsministermötet inom Nordefco i Kirkenes i Norge.

Uttalandet på engelska i sin helhet nedan.

Nordic Defence Ministers joint statement on strengthening Nordic defence cooperation

The war in Ukraine has fundamentally changed European defence and security policy. In light of the ongoing crisis, Nordic solidarity and defence cooperation is more important than ever.

The Nordic countries share fundamental values and security interests. We share a strategically important location. Closer defence cooperation between the Nordic countries strengthens our military capabilities and promotes regional security and stability. Combined, our armed forces represent a considerable defensive force.

Our ability to cooperate during peacetime is a foundation for our ability to act during crisis and conflict. Hence, our armed forces train and exercise together regularly, including exercise Cold Response, the biennial Nordic air defence exercise Arctic Challenge Exercise, as well as regular Cross Border Training conducted between our Air Forces. In addition, we are in the process of deepening our operational cooperation, enabling us to improve our interoperability, deterrence and territorial defence.

As we face increasingly complex security challenges in our region and beyond, we must cooperate through a whole-of-society approach. Recent experiences from the Covid-19 pandemic have demonstrated the necessity of international cooperation and resilient societies. We have a strong tradition for total defence within the Nordic countries, and we aim to strengthen civil-military cooperation across our borders.

We, the Defence Ministers of Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden and Foreign Affairs Minister of Iceland, remain committed to further deepening our defence cooperation with regards to operational cooperation and total defence.



Regeringskansliet

Uttalande från Peter Hultqvist

Sveriges och Finlands försvarsministrar Peter Hultqvist och Antti Kaikkonen deltog i en scenariobaserad övning

Publicerad 14 mars 2022

Finlands försvarsminister Antti Kaikkonen och Sveriges försvarsminister Peter Hultqvist träffades den 14 mars 2022 i Helsingfors för att delta i en scenariobaserad övning. Ministrarna gjorde följande uttalande:

En fortsatt utveckling av vårt bilaterala försvarssamarbete är högt prioriterat. Sverige och Finland är beredda att agera tillsammans även bortom fredstid. Vi har bilateral operationsplanering och förberedelser för att kunna agera koordinerat i kris och krig.

Idag diskuterade vi även det internationella säkerhetsläget samt fördjupandet av vårt bilaterala försvarssamarbete.

En del av vårt bilaterala försvarssamarbete består av scenariobaserade övningar. I dag, den 14 mars, genomförde vi en sådan övning på försvarsministernivå, en så kallad Table Top Exercise. Sveriges och Finlands försvarsschefer deltog också i övningen. Övningen baserades på ett fiktivt scenario med en konflikt i Östersjöregionen och syftet var att öva det politiska beslutsfattandet och procedurer för gemensamt agerande.

Övningar av denna typ stärker våra länders försvarsförmåga och skapar ökad förståelse för de möjligheter och eventuella utmaningar som är förenade med gemensamma militära operationer.



Regeringskansliet

Uttalande från Peter Hultqvist

Uttalande från de nordiska försvarsministrarna den 21 januari 2022 om läget i och omkring Ukraina

Publicerad 21 januari 2022

De nordiska försvarsministrarna har den 21 januari 2022 gjort ett gemensamt uttalande om läget i och omkring Ukraina.

Uttalandet på engelska i sin helhet nedan:

The Nordic Ministers of Defence met virtually on 21 January to discuss the deteriorating situation in and around Ukraine. The ministers monitor the security situation in Ukraine closely, and continue to consult with each other through the NORDEFECO Crisis Consultation Mechanism.

The ministers agree on the gravity of the situation, and the need to seek a diplomatic solution to the current situation. The ministers call on Russia to de-escalate through halting and reversing their ongoing military build-up in the region and engage in dialogue.

The ministers reaffirm their support to Ukraine's sovereignty, territorial integrity, and its right to decide its own foreign and security policy, free from outside interference. The fundamental principles underpinning the European security order remain non-negotiable.

The Nordic countries welcome dialogue on European security issues in relevant fora, including the EU, NATO, OSCE and the UN. The Nordic countries welcome the United States' efforts in engaging Russia in resolving the current crisis.



Uttalande från Peter Hultqvist

De nordiska försvarsministrarnas uttalande den 21 december 2021 om läget i Ukraina

Publicerad 21 december 2021

De nordiska försvarsministrarna har den 21 december 2021 gjort ett gemensamt uttalande om läget i Ukraina. Ministrarna är oroade över Rysslands agerande i och i närheten av Ukraina samt över hur detta påverkar det allmänna säkerhetsläget. De nordiska länderna följer situationen noga och uttrycker sitt fulla stöd för Ukrainas territoriella integritet och suveränitet.

Uttalandet på engelska i sin helhet nedan:

We, the Nordic Ministers of Defence, follow the recent developments in and around Ukraine with great concern. Recent Russian military activity, especially the exceptional military build-up along Ukraine's borders, is a worrying development, which may have a destabilising effect on our shared security environment.

Transparency, refraining from the use of military force, and adherence to both the letter and the spirit of the OSCE commitments and principles and the Vienna Document 2011 is paramount.

We continue to follow the situation in and around Ukraine closely. In 2019 the Nordic Defence Cooperation (NORDEFECO) established a Crisis Consultation Mechanism, facilitating rapid consultations on any urgent matter of common concern. We recently had a Ministerial consultation to discuss the current situation close to Ukraine's border, and we will continue to keep close contact.

The Nordic countries continue their firm support to Ukraine's territorial integrity, sovereignty and right to decide its own foreign and security policy course free from outside interference. We reject the notion of spheres of influence in Europe.

The Minsk agreements and political dialogue remain the basis for solving the conflict in eastern Ukraine.



Regeringskansliet

Pressmeddelande, Uttalande från Peter Hultqvist

Kommentar från försvarsministern till Finlands stridsflygplansbeslut

Publicerad 10 december 2021

Vi beklagar att Finland inte valde Gripen E och GlobalEye.

Vi är övertygade om att Gripen- och GlobalEye-systemen, med en kombination av kvalificerade förmågor, låga kostnader och hög tillgänglighet, hade varit bra val även för Finland.

Dessa båda system är skräddarsydda för att hantera våra gemensamma säkerhetsutmaningar och de särskilda krav som vår gemensamma nordiska miljö medför.

Vi respekterar självklart det finska beslutet. Vårt försvarssamarbete baseras på gemensamma geostrategiska intressen och en gemensam syn på säkerhetsutmaningar.

Försvarssamarbetet kommer att fortsätta utvecklas oberoende av detta och Finland kommer alltjämt vara vår närmsta försvars- och säkerhetspolitiska partner.

Behovet av det nära samarbetet understryks av de geografiska och militärstrategiska realiteterna. Arbetet med att skapa förutsättningar för operativt samarbete i fred, kris och krig kommer att fortsätta.



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Uttalande från Peter Hultqvist

Gemensamt uttalande från utrikesminister Margot Wallström och försvarsminister Peter Hultqvist

Publicerad 04 september 2017

I somras förhandlades en konvention om förbud mot kärnvapen fram i FN. Sverige har under lång tid varit aktivt i frågan om kärnvapenedrustning. Därför var det viktigt för regeringen att stödja FN:s arbete med en sådan konvention. Vi kommer inom kort att tillsätta en utredning för att belysa alla konsekvenser av konventionen, inklusive för provstoppsavtalet, ickespridningsavtalet och Sveriges försvarspolitiska samarbeten. Formerna för denna utredning presenteras i närtid.

Sveriges säkerhetspolitiska linje ligger fast. Vår militära alliansfrihet tjänar oss väl. Den nationella försvarsförmågan ska stärkas parallellt med att våra försvars- och säkerhetspolitiska samarbeten fortsätter att utvecklas. Vår utrikes- och säkerhetspolitik verkar genom diplomati, medling, konfliktförebyggande och förtroendeskapande åtgärder. Så ökar Sveriges möjligheter att verka för avspänning och stabilitet såväl i vårt närområde som globalt.



Regeringskansliet

Uttalande från Peter Hultqvist

Uttalande av Peter Hultqvist med anledning av den tragiska olyckan i Boden

Publicerad 28 mars 2017

Under krigsförbandsövningen Vintersol inträffade en olycka som ledde till att en soldat miste livet. Det är djupt tragiskt och mina tankar går till den avlidnes anhöriga och kamrater. Jag vill särskilt framföra ett tack till alla de som deltagit i räddningsinsatsen. Peter Hultqvist Försvarsminister



Regeringskansliet

Uttalande från Peter Hultqvist

Joint Statement on Regional security challenges discussed by the Nordic defence ministers meeting in Copenhagen 30-31 March

Publicerad 01 april 2016 Uppdaterad 01 april 2016

The Nordic ministers of defence met at Frederiksberg Palace and had a good and open dialogue on Nordic defence and security matters. Furthermore, the ministers strongly condemned the terrorist attacks in Brussels on 22 March.

In relation to the terrorist attacks last week the ministers stated:

Last week Brussels – the heart of Europe – was hit by callous terrorist attacks. Attacks not only on Belgium, but on all the values we share and promote. We strongly condemn the attacks and stand in solidarity with the Belgian people against the violent, cynical and fanatic terrorists behind these attacks. We are resolute in our determination to prevent and defeat terrorism and to fight ISIL, and we discussed this during the meeting. We will do this by standing even closer together – as the free democracies we are.

The ministers also stated:

Nordic defence cooperation is progressing well. In recent years we have seen an increased cooperation taking place and priorities to find effective solutions to our security and defence needs. Implementation of secure communication between the Nordic ministries of defence and military

headquarters will be operational this year. Furthermore, we decided that the Nordic countries will provide air transport to the UN operation in Mali. This will create much needed sustainability and predictability for the UN, and will provide a useful model for enhanced Nordic cooperation in future UN operations.

We also discussed current security challenges in our region. Closer cooperation among the Nordic countries and the Baltic States contributes to enhanced security in our region. We remain concerned with the military activities in the Baltic Sea Region and follow these activities closely. Therefore, we urge Russia to be transparent and predictable when conducting military activities. Furthermore, we reiterate our position that the Russian aggression against Ukraine and the illegal annexation of Crimea are violations of international law and other international agreements.

Within the framework of NORDEFECO, the ministers meet twice every year to discuss areas of ongoing and potential cooperation. The following ministers participated in the meeting:

Danish Minister of Defence Peter Christensen, Swedish Minister of Defence Peter Hultqvist, Norwegian Minister of Defence Ine Eriksen Søreide, the Finnish Minister of Defence Jussi Niinistö and Director of Department for Security and Defence for Iceland Arnor Sigurjónsson.



Uttalande från Peter Hultqvist

Uttalande av Sveriges och Litauens försvarsministrar om situationen i Ukraina

Publicerad 18 februari 2016 Uppdaterad 18 februari 2016

Statement by the Swedish Minister of Defence Peter Hultqvist and the Lithuanian Minister of Defence Juozas Olekaz. We have had a constructive meeting with defence minister Poltorak discussing the military situation in Eastern Ukraine, the ongoing Russian aggression and the relations between our countries. For us as defence ministers of Lithuania and Sweden this visit is an important way of showing our solidarity with Ukraine and our resolute support of Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

In a few weeks' time, two years will have passed since Russia's illegal annexation of Crimea. Today the world's eyes are turning to the crisis in Syria and other parts of the world. But no matter how grave other crises are, they must not serve as an excuse for forgetting about Crimea. It is unacceptable that a powerful neighbour uses military force, deception and disinformation to change borders in Europe in the 21st century.

We stand firmly by the side of Ukraine in that respect.

The fighting in eastern Ukraine continues. Despite persistent Russian denials we know that regular Russian troops are present in Donbass. It continues to support the separatists with equipment, training and advice and to control them for its purposes. Numerous ceasefires have been negotiated and agreed. None has been fully respected. (Over the last 24 hours there have been 47

shootings.) The ceasefire must be respected, Russian troops and weaponry must leave Ukrainian territory and Ukrainian control of its state border must be restored.

The Minsk agreement remains the key to reach a solution to the conflict. We do understand, however, that the absence of Russian delivery on its Minsk commitments presents Ukraine with a domestic challenge to implement its own Minsk obligations.

In general, we commend Ukraine for its progress of democratic and economic reforms achieved so far. At the same time we recognise the extent of the work that remains to be done. Considering the challenges ahead, no time must be lost and it is important that the Ukrainian leadership remains united and focused on the reform process. Successful reforms are indeed the best response to the Russian aggression.

In the sphere of foreign policy, Ukraine, as any sovereign country, has the right to make her own choices on security policy and make other fundamental choices about its own future. We cannot accept that another country interferes with that right. We will not accept any attempts to undermine the sovereignty of Ukraine.

Our presence here today is a sign of our determination to support Ukraine and stand by her side.

18 February 2016, Kyiv