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A coherent response of NATO countries to threats

- We are pleased that the initiative under the name 4 x 30 to improve the armed forces' readiness takes on specific shapes. The talks were very constructive - summed up the first plenary session of NATO defense ministers in Brussels, Mariusz Błaszczak, Minister of National Defense.



On June 7, the head of the Defense Ministry participated in the North Atlantic Council working session on NATO's policy on deterring and defending NATO and adapting NATO's command structures to new challenges.

- We are interested in making sure that in the case of crisis we are safe and we can expect that a possible attack will meet with a swift and decisive response from the North Atlantic Alliance. Such a reaction - wherever the crisis situation would occur, because we look from the point of view of the whole Alliance - and the initiative 4 x 30 gives a guarantee of security - said Minister Mariusz Błaszczak in NATO Headquarters.

The plan, dubbed 4 x 30, assumes that by 2020, NATO countries will have 30 allied mechanized battalions, 30 air squadrons and 30 combat ships ready for action in no more than 30 days.

NATO will also create a new command structure - the decision was made by the defense ministers of the Alliance. The changes are meant to make NATO soldiers quickly and efficiently be shifted to the possible crisis area. The heads of the defense ministries decided that the Alliance would create two new logistics centers. One of them will be in American city of Norfolk and will be responsible for the transfer of soldiers from America to Europe. The second command - in German Ulm - is responsible for the movement of troops on the European continent.

The change of the command structure is NATO's another response to the threat from Russia. After the annexation of Crimea and the outbreak of war in the east of Ukraine, it was decided, among other things, to send additional troops to Poland and the Baltic states. During the Defense Ministerial in Brussels, the tasks of the battalion battle groups on the eastern flank (enhanced Forward Presence - eFP) was summarized.

Minister Mariusz Błaszczak also took part in a meeting of the countries most involved in the support of Ukraine in the "Quint" formula with the participation of representatives from the USA, Poland, Great Britain, Lithuania and Canada.

There were also bilateral meetings of the head of the Ministry of Defense with the commander of NATO forces in Europe General Curtis M. Scaparrotti, NATO commander for the transformation of the alliance General Denis Mercier, and with defense ministers: Germany - Ursula von der Leyen, France - Florence Parly and Ukraine - Stepan Półtorak.

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