

Fact sheet/Security and Defence

**The question of Security and Defence in BSR Europe –
How can the EU and NATO work together achieving Regional Security in the Baltic,
especially taking Russias presence in the region into consideration?
How can these two organizations cooperate despite their different natures?
How should the EU position itself in times of increasing military tension in the Baltic
Sea Region?**

Around the northern, western and south-western shores of the Baltic some of Europe's most prosperous and socially developed democracies are located. In stark contrast, the eastern and south-eastern rim of the Baltic is characterised by countries undergoing complicated and demanding processes of post-communist transformation – with varying degrees of success. This cocktail of heterogeneous states and societies generates a distinctive set of security risks and challenges.

It is important to keep in mind that some BSR countries are only EU- members such as Finland and Sweden, some are only NATO- members such as Norway and others are both. Concerning the relations between these two organisations, their different natures, values, purposes and histories should not be forgotten.

Helpful links and resources:

- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/European_Union–NATO_relations
- https://www.nato.int/nato_static_fl2014/assets/pdf/pdf_2016_07/20160630_1607-factsheet-nato-eu-en.pdf#:~:text=The%202002%20NATO-EU%20Declaration%20on%20a%20European%20Security,mutually%20reinforcing%20development%20of%20the%20military%20capability%20requirements
- <https://www.nato.int/docu/review/articles/2016/03/17/securing-the-nordic-baltic-region/index.html>
- <https://www.nato.int/acad/fellow/98-00/hyde.pdf>
- <https://thenorthernvox.com/the-baltics-and-russia/>
- <https://www.newsweek.com/russia-conducts-baltic-sea-missile-exercise-tensions-rise-lithuania-1717794>