

**Trilateral Statement**  
**on**  
**HQ Multinational Corps Northeast**  
**at**  
**NATO Summit 4-5 September 2014**

In May this year, after the start of the Ukraine crisis, NATO decided on a set of measures to reassure Allies and underline NATO's solidarity, credibility and commitment to collective defence. Within the framework of the Reassurance Measures and NATO's collective defence planning process, the North Atlantic Council requested to initiate work in order to raise the readiness of the Headquarters (HQ) Multinational Corps Northeast.

At the June NATO Defence ministerial the Ministers of Defence from Germany, Poland and Denmark informed their colleagues that an analysis was to be initiated in order to raise the readiness of the HQ Multinational Corps Northeast, identify the necessary steps to enhance the HQ Multinational Corps Northeast capability to address future threats and challenges including Article 5 requirements, intensify consultations within MNC NE framework nations, and seek dialogue and possible further contributions by other NATO allies to enhance regional cooperation and to increase regional capabilities as well as the visibility and usability of the MNC NE.

On the basis of this analysis and the military advice by NATO we, as framework nations, have decided to raise the level of readiness of the Multinational Corps Northeast Headquarters from a Forces of Lower Readiness Headquarters to a High Readiness Force Headquarters in order to exercise command and control in the full range of Alliance missions with the emphasis on Article 5 operations and rapid deployable forces while also supporting the implementation of NATO's reassurance measures in the north-east region of the Alliance.

To confirm commitment to the solidarity of the Alliance, we also plan to enhance multinational cooperation through further integration of Alliance members to the HQ Multinational Corps Northeast and we warmly welcome existing contributions by Allies as well as new contributions from these and other Allies. This would also strengthen the role of the HQ with regard to regional cooperation and Alliance's

capabilities. We will also seek involvement of associated Partner Nations upon invitation.

The decision to raise the level of readiness and fulfill a joint and regional role within the framework of NATO's Readiness Action Plan and the Reassurance Measures will be implemented within the framework of NATO Defence Planning Process and the Framework Nations Concept.

Raising the readiness of the Headquarters will enhance its capability to address future threats and challenges, in order to exercise command and control in the full range of Alliance missions with the emphasis on Article 5 operations and rapid deployable forces.

The first visible measures will be the up-manning of the HQ Multinational Corps Northeast in mid 2015. The Full Operational Capability (FOC) as a High Readiness Forces Corps Headquarters will be achieved in 2016 and as a High Readiness Forces Joint Headquarters Smaller Joint Operations Land by the end of 2018.

The strengthening of the MNC NE should enhance the NATO Force Structure and its ability to carry out, together with the NATO Command Structure, the full spectrum of NATO missions in the new strategic environment.

Our Chiefs of Defence will be tasked to implement our decision as soon as possible.

*Dr Ursula von der Leyen*  
*Minister of Defence*  
*Germany*

*Mr Tomasz Siemoniak*  
*Minister of National Defence*  
*Poland*

*Mr Nicolai Wammen*  
*Minister of Defence*  
*Denmark*