



Joint Statement

*Issued by the Assembly of the Visegrad countries plus Germany
at its meeting in Prague, 28. 7. 2017*

For the meeting of the Visegrad countries plus Germany, we, the Delegates, strongly agree that NATO is an essential project to provide security and defence in Europe.

Regarding the financial aspect of NATO, Visegrad countries plus Germany agreed with military spending target 2 % GDP, which is, in the long-term, an achievable goal. Further innovation and development of each of the member states' army and defence system is recommended and desired.

In regard to different threats in the rapidly changing world nowadays, it is necessary to focus more on defence against hybrid attacks, mainly cyber-attacks which are becoming more common and sophisticated. Counter-terrorism policy should obtain NATO participation in fight against Da'esh.

In relation to the threats from East and Balkans, projects like Enhanced Forward Presence in Baltic states and Poland are important to demonstrate NATO unity. Its strengthening in the future could be its evidence.

We support NATO in further communication and cooperation with the European Union, including closer cooperation of European Battlegroups.

At this meeting in Prague, the idea of common European Union army was also debated constructively. Although it is not considered as question of days, all the states take it into account and will debate it in future.