

Joint Statement The Joint Expeditionary Force Leaders' Summit Tallinn, 17 December 2024

1. We, the leaders of Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, and the United Kingdom – members of the Joint Expeditionary Force (JEF) – met today in Tallinn, acknowledging the strategic significance of the Baltic Sea.
2. We addressed a range of security threats and challenges affecting us, with Russia's illegal and brutal war of aggression against Ukraine remaining our foremost concern. We also discussed threats and challenges in the Baltic Sea region, the North Atlantic, and the High North, underscoring that Russia is the most significant, direct, and long-term threat to the security, peace, and stability in the Euro-Atlantic area.
3. We reiterate that Ukraine's victory is vital to all our security and the preservation of rulesbased international order. We call on all third countries, including DPRK, Belarus, Iran, and China, which are directly or indirectly enabling Russia's aggression, to cease offering the support Moscow requires to prolong the war and the suffering of the Ukrainian people.
4. We reaffirmed our unwavering and longstanding support for a sovereign Ukraine and its people for as long as it takes. The JEF's commitment to Ukraine's interoperability with NATO is steadfast. We were delighted to welcome the Ukrainian Armed Forces to observe JEF's signature exercise, JOINT PROTECTOR 2024. JEF nations and other Allies have been supporting the training of Ukrainian troops since 2022 under Op INTERFLEX in the UK, which has resulted in the training of over 50,000 individuals. The JEF nations continue to discuss how to evolve our training support to assist Ukraine meet today's demands and requirements. At the Summit, we agreed additional measures which together will provide Ukraine the practical support needed and ensure a strong and enduring relationship with JEF nations in the future. We look forward to deeper collaboration building on the success of Ukraine's observation of exercise JOINT PROTECTOR and welcome their involvement in future JEF exercises. This demonstrates our long-term commitment to Ukraine and will support it on its irreversible path to full Euro-Atlantic integration, including NATO membership. Our combined military assistance to Ukraine amounts to over 12 billion euros for 2025. We urge our other Allies and partners to continue or increase their military support for Ukraine as long as is required until Ukraine prevails. We pledge to further expand our training and equipment offer to Ukraine, in order to better support Ukraine's efforts to mobilise additional forces.
5. We supported the underlying principles of the Victory Plan proposed by President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and are working with Ukraine to contribute to its implementation. We reiterated that a comprehensive, just, and lasting peace requires full and unconditional withdrawal of all Russian forces and military assets from the entire territory of Ukraine within its internationally recognised borders. We remain committed to supporting Ukraine on its irreversible path to membership in NATO. We are also committed to strengthening Ukraine's hand by further degrading Putin's war machine and reducing his sources of revenue. By leveraging the Oil Price Cap, and by considering the case for a full maritime services ban, G7 and aligned countries can bear down on Russia's energy revenues.

6. We committed to a long-term policy to constrain, contest, and counter Russia's aggression and threats to regional security, extending beyond its current regime and its war against Ukraine. Building on the outcomes of the 2023 JEF Leaders' Summit in Visby, we have significantly intensified our efforts to deter, defend against, and counter Russian sabotage, acts of violence, cyber and electronic interference, disinformation, and other hybrid 2/2 operations. We will act individually and together to address these Russian highly confrontational actions and will continue to coordinate closely. We continue to track reports of any damage to critical undersea infrastructure, including the incident affecting two telecommunications cables in the Baltic Sea in November. We remain poised to respond as a JEF collective as appropriate. Events like this reinforce the importance of the work JEF nations have been undertaking in promoting the resilience and security of critical undersea infrastructure and acting together as a combined force.
7. We also agreed to work even closer together to disrupt and deter the Russian shadow fleet of crude oil tankers that circumvent international sanctions, directly fund the Russian war effort in Ukraine, and pose a threat to our nations and our waters. Shadow fleet vessels, along with their enablers, should be in no doubt as to our determination to identify and counter their activity and ultimately to hold them to account in accordance with international law. To that end, we strongly support the separate commitment made yesterday by the United Kingdom, Denmark, Sweden, Finland, Poland, and Estonia to challenge suspected shadow fleet vessels transiting certain maritime areas and straits in our region to request relevant proof of insurance.
8. We committed to the steadfast and credible deterrence and defence in the Euro-Atlantic area as JEF nations. We reaffirmed our enduring commitments to NATO's Defence Investment Pledge, recognizing that the current security environment requires to spend well beyond 2% of GDP. We remain dedicated to meeting NATO's capability targets, ensuring the execution of the new regional defence plans, and demonstrating European commitment to invest robustly into defence.
9. We agreed to strengthen our defence industries to increase capacity to produce munitions and weapons, to collectively aggregate demand, improve interoperability and standardisation, galvanising European defence industry in support of and complementarity with NATO. As part of this effort, we will leverage our defence industries while also purchasing directly from Ukraine's defence industry to meet urgent needs and strengthen cooperation between European and Ukrainian industries. Strengthening the defence industries includes targeted investments in defence, with clear allocations of funds for military equipment, personnel, infrastructure, interoperability, and military mobility as well as the establishment of concrete measures to support the development of advanced military technologies.
10. The transatlantic bond is front and centre for our collective security. We are committed to solidarity, burden-sharing, and ensuring NATO remains the cornerstone of Allied deterrence and defence. We look forward to working closely with the incoming U.S. administration on our shared security and defence interests, which are challenged and threatened by adversarial powers at an unprecedented scale.
11. On the 10th anniversary of the JEF, we celebrate its role as a responder in the Baltic Sea, the North Atlantic, and the High North. The JEF stands as a powerful political and military tool, demonstrating our unity and readiness while complementing NATO's rapid-response and expeditionary capabilities. Building on the success of the JEF Response Options, we are committed to further strengthening its coordinated contributions to NATO's deterrence and defence posture in the Euro-Atlantic area.