Fourth Ministerial Meeting of the Coalition on Civil Preparedness and Resilience

Joint Declaration

Ministers and representatives responsible for internal security, civil preparedness and resilience of the Kingdom of Belgium, the Kingdom of Denmark, the Republic of Estonia, the Republic of Finland, the Federal Republic of Germany, the Republic of Latvia, the Republic of Lithuania, the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, the Netherlands, the Republic of Poland, the Republic of Romania and the Kingdom of Sweden declare as follows:

The European Coalition for Civil Preparedness and Resilience convened for its fourth ministerial meeting against a backdrop of growing instability and an increasingly complex security environment. Recent developments have confirmed that preparedness and resilience are essential components of European security, enabling societies to anticipate, withstand and recover from disruptions and that an action-oriented approach is essential.

The Coalition welcomed Romania as a new member, further strengthening its collective commitment to safeguarding European societies, democratic institutions and essential services.

Ministers welcomed presentations by Lithuania, Poland and Romania; noted the growing scale, complexity and frequency of activities of state and non-state actors that aim to destroy, intimidate and disrupt, including disinformation and sabotage; condemned the rapid growth of Crime-as-a-Service as part of the broader hybrid ecosystem; highlighted the need to strengthen societal resilience, anticipation, situational awareness and cooperation. Emphasis was placed on public communication, education and cooperation with private sector.

The Coalition reaffirmed its unwavering support for Ukraine. The Ukrainian people's heroic resistance against Russia's full-scale war of aggression continues to provide hard-earned lessons on preparedness, continuity of government, crisis coordination and the maintenance of essential services. Ministers welcomed the presentation of the book "Unbreakable Kherson", highlighting the importance of preparedness, effective governance, institutional adaptability, local leadership and citizen engagement.

The Coalition welcomed the launch by the Netherlands of a pilot project on an International Curriculum on Preparedness and Resilience, one of the actions included in the joint Coalition Agenda. This initiative aims to promote a whole-of-society approach to address threats to national security. The aim is to continue to bring together public and private sector partners in EU Member States, focusing on the resilience of different vital sectors, and building a strong community within the EU, which can strengthen resilience against threats in the long term.

The Coalition welcomed the European Commission's continued engagement in advancing the European preparedness agenda and underlined the importance of close cooperation between participating States, European institutions and relevant partners. Strengthening preparedness and resilience requires sustained efforts across policy areas and at all levels of governance, including continued engagement and discussion within the Council of the EU. The European Commission advocated for adequate and predictable financial resources in the next Multiannual Financial Framework to ensure Europe can effectively enhance its resilience, as well as prevent, prepare for, and respond to future crisis.

As the Coalition continues to grow and mature, it remains committed to contributing to the European preparedness agenda by fostering political dialogue, promoting practical cooperation and facilitating the exchange of experience among participating States and beyond. While focusing efforts on empowering citizens and strengthening societal resilience; optimizing and integrating risk and threat assessments; improving situational awareness and horizontal crisis management; strengthening the protection of critical infrastructure; and reinforcing civil-military coordination, including EU-NATO complementarity, the Coalition will continue to support efforts to strengthen preparedness and resilience across Europe. The Ministers underlined their commitment to translate shared lessons and priorities into concrete actions for the benefit of European citizens and societies, and to help shape future preparedness priorities for the next phase of the EU preparedness agenda.