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Press Release

Ministers and MPs from nine European states call for a common strategy on Russia and stronger NATO nuclear deterrence

Warsaw Security Forum Annual Report: Europe must prepare for a long-term confrontation with Russia. The states of the Nordic-Baltic-Polish region need to build up their deterrence capabilities fast, and those willing to do so should be brought fully into NATO's Nuclear Sharing programme.

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Twenty-seven high-level contributors from Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Poland and Sweden, including serving and former ministers, parliamentarians, diplomats, senior military officials and leading security experts, joined forces to set out a common vision for strengthening Europe's security. Their work resulted in the **Warsaw Security Forum Annual Report 2026, *Securing Europe from the Eastern Flank to the High North: Strategy for the Nordic-Baltic-Polish Group***. The Report calls for a **common, long-term European strategy towards Russia** - one agreed before the next round of negotiations between Ukraine and Russia, or a Russian-forged crisis, forces governments to improvise.

"Europe cannot build its security strategy around the assumption that the war in Ukraine will automatically end the threat from Russia. We need to prepare for what comes after the war, strengthen NATO's deterrence and ensure that the countries on the eastern and northern flanks have a meaningful role in shaping the security architecture that protects them," – **Prof. Katarzyna Pisarska, Chair of the Warsaw Security Forum.**

"Post-war must not mean post-threat"

An end to the fighting in Ukraine should not be mistaken for an end to Europe's wider security confrontation with Russia. The Report calls for **joint European red lines before negotiations begin, maintaining sanctions until verifiable changes in Russian behaviour**, for the **withdrawal of Russian nuclear weapons from Belarus** to be demanded, and for the **demilitarisation of Kaliningrad** to be placed on the agenda of future discussions on Europe's security architecture.

The same strategic approach should apply to Russian hybrid warfare. The Report proposes a **standing regional intelligence-sharing** and **threat-assessment mechanism**, alongside coordinated procedures for attributing and responding to drone incursions, sabotage and attacks on critical infrastructure. The contributors also argue that a sustained hybrid campaign should be capable of triggering **Article 5** of the Washington Treaty, even where no single incident crosses the threshold on its own.

Stronger NATO nuclear deterrence

While the Report does not, under current political conditions, recommend that NATO's eastern-flank states develop national nuclear arsenals, it calls for stronger conventional deterrence, stronger collective nuclear deterrence within the Alliance, and **fuller participation of the Nordic-Baltic-Polish region in NATO's Nuclear Sharing programme**.

Current nuclear sharing arrangements rely on American B61 weapons hosted by five allies, while the countries admitted to NATO after the Cold War, Poland among them, have remained outside the mechanism. The Report therefore calls on the states of the region to work together to move beyond the constraints associated with the **1997 NATO-Russia Founding Act**, which Russia has repeatedly violated.

The aim is not to create separate national arsenals, but to embed **the region fully in NATO's nuclear deterrence architecture**. Broader participation would strengthen deterrence, complicate Russian military planning and give the Alliance's most exposed members a greater say in shaping the security posture designed to protect them.

From the High North to the Suwałki Gap: one security theatre

The Report calls for the High North, the Baltic Sea and NATO's eastern flank to be treated as **one connected strategic theatre**.

Its recommendations include **Poland's accession to the Joint Expeditionary Force**, a standing maritime task force to protect critical undersea infrastructure and counter Russia's shadow fleet, and a controlled air-defence zone over the **Suwałki Gap under Polish and Lithuanian leadership**.

The contributors also call for deeper regional cooperation in defence production, particularly in drones and counter-drone technologies, to strengthen interoperability and resilience.

The message is unambiguous: **Europe must prepare now for the security environment that will follow the war in Ukraine. Post-war must not mean post-threat.**

WSF 2026 Annual Report was prepared by the analytical team of the Casimir Pulaski Foundation with a working group of 27 contributors from the region.

Contributors:

- Minna Ålander — Analyst, Stockholm Center for European Studies (Sweden)
- Heikki Autto — Member of Parliament, Chair of the Defence Committee (Finland)
- Pawel Bartoszek — Member of Parliament, Chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee (Iceland)
- Władysław Teofil Bartoszewski — Secretary of State, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Poland)
- Paweł Bliźniuk — Member of the Sejm (Poland)
- Lt. Gen. Piotr Błazeusz — Polish Military Representative to the NATO and the EU Military Committees (Poland)
- Krzysztof Bosak — Deputy Speaker of the Sejm (Poland)
- Kęstutis Budrys — Minister of Foreign Affairs (Lithuania)
- Espen Barth Eide — Minister of Foreign Affairs (Norway)
- Aron Emilsson — Member of Parliament, Chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee (Sweden)
- Adam Guibourgé-Czetwertyński — Undersecretary of State, Ministry of Climate and Environment, 2019–2023 (Poland)
- Thórdís Kolbrún R. Gylfadóttir — Ambassador of Iceland to the United Kingdom; Minister for Foreign Affairs, 2021–2024 (Iceland)
- Jakob Henningsen — Ambassador of Denmark to Poland
- Toomas Hendrik Ilves — President of Estonia, 2006–2016
- Giedrimas Jeglinskas — Member of Parliament, 2024–2026; Assistant Secretary General of NATO, 2019–2022 (Lithuania)
- Zanda Kalnina-Lukaševica — Vice-Speaker of the Parliament (Latvia)
- Gabrielijs Landsbergis — Minister of Foreign Affairs, 2020–2024 (Lithuania)
- Linas Linkevičius — Ambassador of Lithuania to Sweden; Member of the Warsaw Security Forum International Advisory Council
- Marko Mihkelson — Member of Parliament, Chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee (Estonia)
- Kari Osland — Director of the Norwegian Institute of International Affairs (Norway)
- Agnieszka Pomaska — Member of Parliament, Chair of the European Union Committee (Poland)
- Dovile Šakalienė — Member of Parliament; Minister of Defence, 2024–2025 (Lithuania)
- Andres Sutt — Minister of Energy and the Environment (Estonia)
- Pierre Thévenin — Research Fellow, SIPRI (France/Sweden)
- Margus Tsahkna — Minister of Foreign Affairs (Estonia)
- Tytti Tuppurainen — Member of Parliament (Finland)
- Anna Wieslander — Director for Northern Europe, Atlantic Council (Sweden)

Editorial team: Katarzyna Pisarska, Maciej Dachowski, Ewelina Załuska.

Authors: Katarzyna Pisarska, Tomasz Smura, Maciej Dachowski, Maciej Filip Bukowski, Karolina Pawlik, Sebastian Czub, Patryk Litwiński, Ewelina Załuska.

About the Warsaw Security Forum

For more than a decade, the WSF has stood as one of Europe's leading platforms dedicated to transatlantic cooperation and the development of shared responses to common security challenges. The Forum convenes over 2,000 senior delegates and 100 institutional partners from more than 90 countries each year. The 13th edition will be held in close cooperation with the **Government of the Kingdom of Norway**, our Partner Country for this year, and will feature a strong high-level Norwegian presence throughout the programme.

Notes to editors

The WSF Annual Report 2026 is available at warsawsecurityforum.org/wsf-2026/report/.
Published by the Casimir Pulaski Foundation, Oleandrów 6, 00-629 Warsaw, www.pulaski.pl/en/.

Press contact:

Agnieszka Dietrich
adietrich@pulaski.pl
+48 798 971 648

Justyna Wydra
jwydra@pulaski.pl
+48 573 291 242