

Brussels Summit Key Decisions 11 – 12 July 2018

“NATO embodies the vital bond between Europe and North America. Our Alliance guarantees our security, our freedom, and the values we share, including our commitment to defend each other. Our decisions at the Brussels Summit show that, as the world changes, Europe and North America stand together and act together in NATO.”

- NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg,
12 July 2018



- 1. REDOUBLED EFFORTS FOR FAIRER BURDEN SHARING:** After years of decline, Allies have reversed the negative trend on defence spending. Over the past two years, European Allies and Canada have added an additional 41 billion dollars to their defence spending. At the Brussels Summit, all Allies agreed to redouble their efforts to share the burden of our security more fairly, with more cash, capabilities, and contributions to missions and operations. This will make NATO stronger and our people safer.
- 2. NATO COMMAND STRUCTURE REFORM:** NATO's Command Structure is the backbone of our Alliance. At the Brussels Summit, NATO leaders agreed a major update of the NATO Command Structure, with more than 1,200 additional personnel and two new commands to ensure our forces can move quickly across the Atlantic and within Europe. Our new Joint Force Command for the Atlantic will be based in Norfolk, Virginia (United States), ensuring that sea lines of communication between Europe and North America remain free and secure. Our new Enabling Command will be based in Ulm (Germany), helping to improve the movement of troops and equipment within Europe. These commands will ensure we have the right forces in the right place at the right time. We are also setting up a Cyberspace Operations Centre, in Mons (Belgium), as part of the adapted Command Structure. This will make sure that NATO is as effective in cyberspace as it is on land, in the air and at sea.
- 3. READINESS INITIATIVE:** NATO is confronted with threats and challenges from multiple directions. To protect our members, we need to be able to respond at short notice, and quickly reinforce our Allies. At the Summit, leaders agreed a NATO Readiness Initiative, the so-called 'Four Thirties'. Allies committed, by 2020, to having 30 mechanised battalions, 30 air squadrons and 30 combat vessels, ready to use within 30 days or less. This is not about new forces, but about increasing the readiness of the forces our nations already have. These forces can be made available to NATO for rapid reinforcement during a crisis. The initiative will enhance both the Alliance's collective defence and improve its ability to address other crises quickly.
- 4. COUNTER-HYBRID SUPPORT TEAMS:** At the Brussels Summit, Allies agreed to establish Counter-Hybrid Support Teams. These teams can deploy, if requested by an Ally, to support national efforts in variety of areas, including cyber defence, countering disinformation or energy security.
- 5. NEW NATO MISSION IN IRAQ:** At the Brussels Summit, NATO leaders launched a new training mission in Iraq, at the request of the Iraqi Government and in coordination with the Global Coalition to Defeat ISIS. Hundreds of NATO soldiers will help to train Iraqi forces to secure their country and make sure ISIS does not return, because in the fight against terrorism our best weapon is training local forces. This will be a non-combat mission, building on our current efforts to train Iraqi instructors. We will also establish professional military schools and academies for the Iraqi forces, so that our expertise can reach thousands of others. This will increase the professionalism of the Iraqi forces. It will help them to better fight terrorism, stabilise their country and prevent the re-emergence of ISIS.

6. **PACKAGE ON THE SOUTH:** At the Summit, NATO leaders endorsed a Package on the South, which includes a range of political and practical cooperation initiatives. Allies are working to strengthen NATO's deterrence and defence against threats emanating from the South; to contribute to international crisis and management efforts in the region; and to help regional partners build resilience against security threats, including in the fight against terrorism. Leaders also declared the Hub for the South in Naples fully operational. Based at Joint Force Command in Naples, the Hub will help us to better monitor regional threats and coordinate NATO efforts. Enhanced planning and exercises will also help improve NATO's ability to anticipate and respond to crises in the region.
7. **FURTHER SUPPORT FOR AFGHANISTAN:** At the Summit, Allies reconfirmed NATO's military, financial and political commitment to Afghanistan. They agreed to sustain our presence in Afghanistan until conditions indicate a change is appropriate. Allies also agreed to extend funding for the Afghan Security Forces through 2024, as the government makes an unprecedented political effort to seek a peaceful resolution to the conflict.
8. **ACCESSION TALKS INVITATION TO SKOPJE:** At the Brussels Summit, Allies made clear that NATO's door remains open by inviting the government in Skopje to begin accession talks leading to NATO membership. Once the accession talks have concluded and the government in Skopje has completed all its national procedures to fully implement the name agreement, Allies will sign an Accession Protocol to the Washington Treaty. It is then up to the national parliaments in all our member states to ratify this protocol, in line with their national legal requirements. Once all Allies have ratified, the Secretary General will invite the country to accede to the Washington Treaty and join NATO. Skopje will respond to this invitation in line with its national procedures. We hope to welcome the country as NATO's 30th member soon.
9. **COOPERATION WITH THE EUROPEAN UNION:** In the margins of the Brussels Summit, the NATO Secretary General and the Presidents of the European Council and the European Commission signed a new declaration on NATO-EU cooperation, demonstrating our desire to deepen cooperation. In the months ahead, we will step up our cooperation on military mobility and work together to respond to hybrid threats and to counter terrorism.

Read the full Brussels Summit Declaration here: <https://bit.ly/2NZqP4h>

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