



MINISTÈRE DES ARMÉES

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PRESS RELEASE

OF THE MINISTRY FOR THE FRENCH ARMED FORCES

Paris, december the 29 th 2022

Meeting between Sébastien Lecornu, French Minister of the Armed Forces, and Arvydas Anušauskas, Minister of Defence of the Republic of Lithuania (29 December, 2022)

Signing of the CAESAR technical arrangement

On 29 December, 2022, the French Minister of the Armed Forces, Sébastien Lecornu, met with the Minister of Defence of the Republic of Lithuania, Arvydas Anušauskas, at Hôtel de Brienne, in Paris. The ministers are proud to announce the signing of a technical arrangement for cooperation in the artillery domain which will enhance defence relations between France and Lithuania. This agreement follows the signing of the Letter of Intent that was signed on 13 June, 2022, in Paris on the sidelines of Eurosatory 2022.

In the framework of the technical arrangement signed between the two countries, the Lithuanian ministry of Defence has signed with French company Nexter a commercial contract regarding the acquisition of 18 CAESAR 155mm Mark II howitzers. The French armed forces are also to acquire such howitzers: thus, the Lithuanian as well as the French armed forces will benefit from capacities that have been tested in several operations, in Iraq or, more recently, in Ukraine. With this partnership built around the CAESAR howitzers, France and Lithuania are enhancing their armed forces interoperability and score their willingness to jointly work towards the reinforcement of NATO and the EU Eastern flank while consolidating the European defence technological and industrial base.

The ministers also shared their assessment of the war taking place in Ukraine and discussed the preparation of the Vilnius Summit (11 and 12 July, 2023).

For several years, France and Lithuania have significantly increased their defence relations, mostly through operational cooperation. This cooperation has materialized on Lithuanian territory as rotational French deployments in the framework of NATO: a French joint forces company integrated an enhanced Forward Presence multinational Battlegroup and several Air deployments have participated to the enhanced Air Policing, as it is currently the case with a plot of Rafale aircrafts detached in Šiauliai. On the other side, Lithuania has been an active contributor to missions and operations in Africa such as European Union Training Missions in Mali and in Mozambique. Almost 90 percent of the Lithuanian troops serving abroad at this moment are deployed in Africa. Their biggest contingent is committed into the United Nations Mission in Mali (UNMISMA).

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