

The President, Toomas Hendrik Ilves, who will be on a working visit to Poland from 18 to 20 March, will meet next Tuesday in Warsaw with the Vice President of the United States, Joe Biden.

The meeting will focus upon ensuring security in our region, Russia's aggression in Ukraine and the uniform and effective counter steps to be taken by democratic countries.

On 8 March, the President of the United States of America, Barack Obama, and the heads of state of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania stated, in a shared telephone conversation, that events over the last weeks have continued to confirm the importance of NATO's collective defence principles. According to President Ilves, the crisis in Ukraine to date does not represent a dire threat for the Baltic states that belong to NATO and the European Union; however, in general, Russia's activities have weakened the security situation in Europe in general. Therefore, the visibility of the allies – above all, the United States of America – in our region will serve as a deterrent for those whose ambitions need to be swamped and will, understandably, enhance the feeling of security in the Baltic states.

On 6 March, six US fighters landed in Lithuania and represent an additional reinforcement to NATO's air security mission in the Baltic states.

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