National Security Concept

of the

Republic of Estonia

(2004)

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INTRODUCTION

The National Security Concept of the Republic of Estonia (2004) has been drawn up by the Government. It presents the goal and guidelines of Estonia's National Security Policy and a general evaluation of the existing security environment. This document has been drawn up and adopted on the basis of the Peacetime National Defence Act.

The National Security Concept, adopted in 2001, dealt with the period when Estonia was heading towards North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) and European Union (EU) accession. The achievement of these goals has created a need for the reorganisation of the nation's activities concerning national security, while maintaining the nation's basic course in this sphere.

The National Security Concept is a document with a medium-term perspective. It will be revised according to changes in the security environment, and as new options develop for ensuring and enhancing Estonia's security.

1. THE NATIONAL SECURITY POLICY GOAL, BASIC GUIDELINES AND SECURITY THREATS

1.1. The National Security Policy goal and basic guidelines

The goal of the Estonian National Security Policy is to preserve Estonia's independence and sovereignty, territorial integrity, constitutional order, and public safety.

Estonia's security is ensured in accordance with the law by making use of all foreign and domestic policy means.

Membership in NATO, the EU, and other international organisations, as well as successful bilateral and multilateral relations, make it possible to defend Estonia's interests and to achieve the National Security Policy goal.

The Estonian National Security Policy is based upon the principle that security is indivisible, upon the need for international security cooperation, and upon the common defence of democratic values. As a member of NATO and the EU, Estonia wishes to ensure its national security, and thereby, to also enhance the international security environment. Membership in alliances with common democratic principles and goals is the main basis for, and guarantee of Estonia's national security.

Estonia abides by the principle, that every nation has the right and freedom to choose its own solutions for its security needs and that every nation is obligated to not threaten the security of other nations. The Estonian National Security Policy and its implementation are not directed against any other nation.

Proceeding from its national interests as well as its membership in NATO and the EU, Estonia abides by the following guidelines in its National Security Policy:

• to actively participate in the work of both NATO and EU structures as well as to improve cooperation with other Member States;

• to participate in the international security system and corresponding cooperative endeavours, including international crisis management and peace operations, in accordance with Estonia's commitments and capabilities;

• to develop Estonia's military defence in cooperation with its allies so as to ensure the nation's defence capability;

• to ensure the democratic development of society and to enhance the nation's internal security;

• to enhance social, economic, and environmental stability.

To achieve the National Security Policy goal, Estonia ensures, that the means for carrying out foreign policy, for defending the nation militarily, for ensuring constitutional order, for ensuring public safety, and for protecting sectors of vital importance will all be applied in a mutually coordinated fashion. The risk analysis and threat assessments drawn up by the ministries and security agencies constitute an essential basis for formulating the National Security Policy, and also help the Government to determine the short-term National Security Policy guidelines and the most important spheres of cooperation between government agencies.

1.2. International security policy developments and Estonia's position in the international security environment

Estonia's national security is directly connected with developments in the international security environment. Euro-Atlantic security cooperation and integration, including the enlargement of both NATO and the EU, have reduced the threat of large-scale military conflicts in Europe. The globalisation of economic and social processes and communication is creating close links between nations and exerting a crucial effect upon the security environment. Despite positive developments, the international security environment has not reached a state of stability.

For Estonia, the most significant trend in the international security environment is the development of Euro-Atlantic cooperation -- NATO and the EU have enlarged, and the accession of new members is continuing. Ever since they were founded, these two structures have ensured Europe's peace, stability of social development, and economic growth. Membership in both an enlarged NATO and EU gives Estonia a historically unique opportunity for enhancing its national security. In parallel with multilateral security cooperation within NATO, a partnership with the United States and other allies constitutes a major security factor for Estonia.

With the enlargement of both NATO and the EU, there has been a significant increase in the security and stability of the Euro-Atlantic region. NATO and EU enlargement have also had a positive effect upon the Baltic Sea region's security environment. The vast majority of the region's states belong to the EU and many of them to NATO. The logical continuation of this process will make it possible, in the interests of peace and

stability, to intensify security cooperation of the Nordic countries and the Baltic states, both within the framework of Euro-Atlantic cooperation and regionally.

Within the changed international security environment, there is an increased threat of an often unpredictable breaking out and evolving of local and regional crises. Changes in the security environment, and belonging to NATO and the EU, have significantly expanded Estonia's security policy interests into regions in which Estonia previously had no direct interests. These regions affect the security of Estonia and its allies as well as the international security environment and its stability. Therefore, special attention should be focused upon them.

The security policy changes taking place in the world have been dealt with in the NATO Strategic Concept (1999) and in other documents, and also in the European Security Strategy (2003).

Changes in the international security environment have brought with them new security threats. The unconventional threats among them are: international terrorism; the uncontrolled spread of weapons of mass destruction; organised crime; the smuggling of weapons, narcotics, and people; and the flow of refugees created by crisis situations. In such conditions, no nation or region of the world is beyond danger. For Estonia also, many previously non-important threats have become actual.

The extensiveness and coordination of terrorism, and the criminal organisations associated with it, is ever increasing. This means, that NATO and EU Member States must employ effective countermeasures, including the capability and readiness to solve the crises accompanying terrorism.

The need for cooperation between nations on a bilateral and multilateral basis, and also within the framework of international organisations, is constantly increasing. But the ability of international organisations to solve certain security problems has, at the same time, not improved.

Quickly developing international contacts are increasing the further internationalising of various social and environmental problems. Accordingly, there is also an increased possibility that Estonia will be threatened by problems, which have originated far from us.

Due to the nation's smallness and openness, Estonia's economy is greatly dependent upon the development of the world economy. From the national security viewpoint, it is essential to develop balanced and transparent economic relations with other countries as well as a stable inflow of foreign investments. Shortcomings in these spheres could increase the various threats accompanying the development of the world economy.

1.3. Threats to national security

Uncontrollable developments in the world and international crises

The increased probability that new many-faceted and often unforeseeable threats will crop up presents the ensuring of security with new challenges. The most serious

threats to Estonia's security are possible instability and uncontrollable developments in the world, as well as international crises.

The security of Estonia and its allies is indivisible -- the international security environment affects Estonia's security and vice-versa. The security environment is threatened by both international crises and their consequences. Participation in international efforts to prevent and solve crises enables Estonia to contribute to the ensuring of international security.

With the enlargement of NATO and the EU, the security and stability zone in Europe has significantly broadened. At the same time, due to the contradictory democratisation processes and foreign policies of certain neighbours of these alliances, it is still not possible to rule out threats to Estonia's security.

Threat of a military conflict

The probability of a military conflict breaking out, that would encompass all of Europe, or the threat of a conflict in the Baltic Sea region has been reduced to a minimum. Membership in NATO and the EU reduces the threat of war for Estonia even more.

Estonia's national security is neither presently, nor will be in the near future, confronted with a direct military threat. Even in the medium and long-term perspective, a military attack against any NATO Member State is very unlikely. For such a threat to re-emerge, a noticeable power shift in the international security arrangement would have to take place along with a major and long-term worsening of the security environment. Such a development, however, is unlikely. Nevertheless, in the long-term perspective, the possibility for the re-occurrence of such a threat cannot be totally excluded.

Various crises of a military nature are the most likely source of a military threat for Estonia's security. A crisis of a military nature, that directly affects Estonia, could be activity of a military nature, which is aimed at applying pressure to Estonia, or some other NATO Member, for achieving otherwise unacceptable political decisions or concessions.

A crisis of a military nature, directly affecting Estonia, could be brought about by:
• the unexpected increasing or re-deployment of military forces stationed near Estonia's border;
• large-scale military manoeuvres, which are not in compliance with international arms control treaties, in the direct vicinity of Estonia's border;
• the intentional violation of Estonia's air space, land border, or territorial waters.

A crisis of a military nature directly affecting Estonia could also be caused by a politically motivated terrorist attack against Estonia, its allies, or neighbouring states.

The further reduction of incidents of armed conflict and other military threats is dependent upon the development of international relations as well as NATO's, the EU's, and Estonia's defence capabilities.

Threat of external coercion

The threat of direct political or some other coercion being applied with the purpose of altering Estonia's basic domestic or foreign policy options is minimal. Such pressure could be connected with the activities of the special services of other states as well as politically motivated economic and other measures being applied against Estonia. Integration into the EU and NATO, as Estonia's successful political, economic, and social development plus the consolidation of society on the basis of democratic values and the successful maintenance of law and order ensure Estonia's ability to avoid the application of such coercion, and, if necessary, to effectively counter it.

Threat of international terrorism

Although the likelihood of a direct military threat is decreasing, non-conventional threats, primarily the global nature of international terrorism, and the possibility of the uncontrolled proliferation of chemical, biological, and radioactive or nuclear weapons are presenting international cooperation with serious new tasks.

International terrorism and organised crime, the latter providing a hotbed for the former, are spreading in areas where national security, law and order, as well as rule of law are failing. The elimination of the threat of terrorism requires quick and effective international cooperation, in which Estonia participates within the scope of its commitments and capabilities. In addition to international cooperation, Estonia also implements domestic counter-terrorism measures.

Threat deriving from organised crime

International organised crime could often be extensively intertwined with the activities of terrorist organisations and be connected with the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. It is therefore a significant threat factor to international stability and Estonia's national security.

A noticeable threat to the functioning of the rule of law in Estonia, and thereby, to national security, is the possible increase in the influence of international organised crime within society and the accompanying corruption as well as its penetration into politics, the civil service, and the economy.

Threats deriving from human activity and natural disasters

The threats deriving from human activity, which influence Estonia's national security are: fires and explosions; transport, radiation, and chemical accidents; and the cross-border effects of these accidents.

Especially dangerous for the Baltic Sea region are older type nuclear power plants. The threat of immediate catastrophe is primarily associated with large enterprises handling dangerous chemicals, and with the intensifying tanker traffic in the Baltic Sea, especially in the Gulf of Finland.

The worsening condition of the environment is a consequence of the worldwide scope of environmental hazards, and could be connected with climatic changes, the thinning

of the ozone layer, and the depletion of natural resources. The natural disasters Estonia is basically threatened by are storms and floods, which could cause emergency situations.

Threats of a social origin

Drug addiction, alcoholism, and the spread of HIV/AIDS, along with other dangerous contagious diseases, pose a threat to Estonia's economic welfare as well as the nation's social and political stability. Emergencies in Estonia's vicinity could be accompanied by a large flow of refugees and extensive migration.

Threats of an economic origin

Estonia's economy is, to a great extent, integrated with the world economy, and therefore, Estonia can be influenced by potential worldwide economic crises, or by the instability of foreign markets essential for Estonia. A major threat factor is the great dependence of Estonia's gas and electrical systems upon foreign monopolistic energy systems and suppliers.

Threats in the information technology sphere

The instability or breakdown of information systems could cause serious threats. The constantly increasing rate at which electronic information systems are adopted in Estonia, and their connection with and dependence upon worldwide information systems, increases the threat of computer crime as well as the vulnerability of information systems, including spheres of primary importance to national security. During the last few years, there has been an increase in the number of persons who, through their activities in the Internet environment, could endanger government databases and registries.

2. FOREIGN POLICY IN ENSURING NATIONAL SECURITY

2.1. The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation

Membership in NATO guarantees the nation's military security, and enables Estonia to constructively participate in international security cooperation and most efficiently ensure the nation's defence.

The Estonian National Security Policy corresponds with the NATO Member commitments and rights, which are derived from the North Atlantic Treaty. The Estonian National Security Policy supports the achieving of the goals of these commitments and rights as well as the goals of NATO as a whole. Estonia's approach to the matter of national security is in full accord with the principles of NATO's Strategic Concept.

As a NATO Member, Estonia sets aside the necessary funds and other resources for participating in the Alliance's activities and for fulfilling its commitments, as well as participates in NATO's military structure and joint defence planning. Estonia fulfils

the commitments, derived from the North Atlantic Treaty's Article 5, for preventing and repelling military attacks against any NATO Member State.

NATO's main task is, and will be, the common defence of its Members and the ensuring of international stability. NATO has ensured Europe's security. NATO, as the only effective international defence and security organisation, has managed to act decisively to solve crises in Europe and elsewhere in the world. NATO must be capable of responding to threats, irrespective of where in the world they occur, as well as be capable of responding to such unconventional threats as terrorism. For Estonia it is essential, that NATO will continue to fulfil its basic task -- the ensuring of a common defence. Estonia fully supports NATO's readiness to deal with new threats as well as to participate in the prevention of international conflicts and in international crisis management.

As a NATO Member, Estonia's military defence and defence preparedness, and the planning of military capabilities, is being completely aligned with NATO's defence planning and commitments. Estonia contributes its agreed upon resources and forces to NATO's joint forces. Estonia's contribution is determined on the basis of both Estonia's and NATO's goals, needs, and capabilities. An essential and inseparable part of Estonia's national security policy is participation in NATO's operations. Estonia continues to develop its relevant capabilities.

NATO Member States have committed themselves to improving their military capabilities with the aim of developing modern, multi-purpose, re-deployable, mobile, and sustainable rapid reaction units. In implementing the National Security Policy, Estonia bases its Defence Policy upon these commitments, which were adopted within the NATO framework, and participates in the fulfilling of common goals.

Estonia participates in NATO's cooperation with its Partner States. The cooperation of states with various national security options as well as NATO's active role in this, increase international security and stability.

2.2. The European Union

EU accession, alongside NATO membership, has strengthened Estonia's national security. EU enlargement has increased security and stability in the Baltic Sea region and in all of Europe. The activities of the EU to combat the world's security threats have become more efficient. Estonia is increasing its capability of participating in the EU Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) and in the EU decision-making processes generally.

To help ensure Europe's security, Estonia contributes to the development of the CFSP, and to the military and civilian crisis management capabilities of the European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP). With the development of EU security and defence cooperation, Member States have committed themselves to improving their military and civilian capabilities. Estonia is continuing the appropriate development of its military and civilian capabilities. In implementing its National Security Policy, Estonia proceeds from the commitments established by the EU goals in this sphere and participates in the achieving of common goals. Estonia supports the active

exchange and coordination of information within the counter-terrorism cooperation framework of the EU Member States.

Participation in the EU CFSP and ESDP operations is an essential part of Estonia's National Security Policy. In accordance with the European Security Strategy, Estonia participates actively in EU actions to reduce the world's security threats as well as to enlarge and secure the stability zone in the regions directly neighbouring the EU and further abroad.

The cooperation, which exists within the framework of the EU CFSP and ESDP, and its further development, must take place in a manner that does not entail the duplicating of defence cooperation taking place within the NATO framework, and that supports transatlantic cooperation. Estonia supports steps being taken to increase the coordination of EU activities in various international organisations, within the framework of security and trade policies as well as development cooperation.

The foundation of European security is the working NATO and EU partnership. The EU and NATO agreements for carrying out defence cooperation have established a firm base for developing a strategic partnership. To increase Europe's defence and crisis management capabilities, it is essential to coordinate EU and NATO military planning processes.

2.3. Other international organisations

Within the framework of international organisations, Estonia deals with issues such as political, economic, and military matters, as well as human rights and democratic freedoms. Active participation in international organisations offers possibilities for consolidating both the global and regional security environment, so ensuring Estonia's national security. The spread of democratic values and the protection of fundamental human rights and freedoms are in the Estonia's interest.

Estonian foreign policy proceeds from the United Nations (UN) Charter, the principles of protecting human rights and promoting international security, and the spread of democracy. Estonia's participation in UN peace operations helps to realize the aforementioned principles.

Estonia participates in the formulating and implementing of the norms and principles of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) as well as in the prevention of conflicts and in crisis management. Estonia also participates in OSCE missions, and in cooperative endeavours in the spheres of arms control and confidence building measures.

Estonia participates in the work of the Council of Europe for supporting legislative reform and the protection of human rights, with the aim of assisting in the strengthening of democratic stability and the development of Europe's cultural identity.

Participation in regional cooperation within the framework of the Council of Baltic Sea States (CBSS) provides additional opportunities for achieving the Estonian National Security Policy goal.

The ensuring of Estonia's national security is also enhanced by participation in international development cooperation. Estonia's involvement is directed at ensuring peace, democracy, and the observance of human rights. Estonia helps to ensure economic and social stability as well as the reduction of poverty, in accordance with the principles of sustainable development. Estonia takes part in development cooperation according to the guidelines ratified by the parliament, on the basis of international norms and in partnership with the recipient states.

2.4. Bilateral and multilateral security policy relations

2.4.1. Transatlantic relations

For ensuring Estonia's national security, the alliance with the United States of America is of primary importance. Estonia is developing extensive and close cooperation with the United States in all spheres of major importance. The cornerstone of European security is the U.S. military presence and consistent participation in the ensuring of this security.

A strong transatlantic relationship is the basis for Euro-Atlantic stability, economic growth, and continual development. In transatlantic relations, Estonia seeks cooperation based on common values aimed at ensuring peace, democracy, and security. This cooperation, among other things, also encompasses the fight against terrorism and uncontrolled proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

The strengthening of the transatlantic relationship is being manifested primarily through cooperation within the NATO framework. Estonia supports the development of a stronger transatlantic cooperative relationship between the United States and the EU. The intertwining of the memberships of NATO and the EU strengthens the cooperation and partnership between Europe and the United States.

For Estonia it is essential, that the United States is actively interested and participates in ensuring the security of Northern Europe and the Baltic Sea region.

2.4.2. Security policy relations in the Baltic Sea region

Stability, the consolidation of democratic values, and the development of international cooperation in the Baltic Sea region directly influence the achieving of the Estonian National Security Policy goal. In the Baltic Sea region, cooperation in the national security sphere is being carried out both within the framework of various international institutions and bilaterally. The significance of NATO and the EU in Baltic Sea region security cooperation has increased after enlargement and is continuing to increase further.

Estonia has good cooperative relations with the **Nordic countries** (Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden), which, within the framework of ever closer cooperation with the Baltic states, have helped to strengthen Estonia's defence capability and to promote the nation's economy. Estonia has good cooperation with **Latvia** and **Lithuania** in all spheres, both on a bilateral basis and within the frameworks of the Baltic Assembly and the Baltic Council of Ministers. Jointly, a

trilateral defence cooperation agreement has been concluded. Estonia is interested in the increasing security cooperation between the Nordic countries and the Baltic states both in the Baltic Sea region and further abroad.

Estonia's relations with **Germany** and **Poland** are multifaceted and developing rapidly in regard to bilateral questions and matters concerning development of the Baltic Sea region, and also the promotion of European security and cooperation.

Estonian and **Russian** bilateral relations overlap with NATO and EU multilateral efforts to establish mutually beneficial partnership relations with Russia.

NATO and EU relations with Russia are based upon documents reflecting partnership and cooperation, and upon joint structures dealing with an ever larger range of questions. Seeking good neighbourly relations with Russia, Estonia, along with other states, contributes to the implementation of the principles prescribed in the NATO and EU security strategies and actively participates in the further development of this cooperation.

The development of democracy and the increasing of prosperity in Russia are important for the security of the Baltic Sea region as a whole. Estonia is making efforts to utilize opportunities for cooperating with Russia and its border regions. This includes the fight against common threats like organized crime, terrorism, and environmental disasters.

2.5. Participation in international peace and security efforts

2.5.1. International crisis management

An essential part of Estonia's National Security Policy is international security cooperation, an element of which is participation in crisis management and peace operations. Estonia's international reputation as a partner in security cooperation is directly dependent upon the nation's readiness and ability to contribute to NATO and EU operations. Estonia is ready to participate in international operations within the framework of NATO and the EU, as well as of the UN and other international organisations, to ensure peace and security and solve crises, and to participate in other crisis management operations along with its NATO and EU allies.

For participation in the solving of international crises, a comprehensive crisis management system is being established, which encompasses military, legal, and financial aspects. The need for developing the appropriate capabilities is taken into consideration in the development plans of the government agencies participating in crisis management.

2.5.2. International fight against terrorism

Estonia condemns all possible forms of terrorism, regarding political violence and international terrorism as being an essential threat to international security and peace. Estonia supports all internationally recognized anti-terrorist measures.

Estonia consistently participates in efforts directed against international terrorism and supports the activities of all international organisations, that are aimed at preventing terrorism and stopping its spread. Therefore, Estonia is purposefully developing appropriate international bilateral and multilateral cooperation and exchange of information.

Estonia is fulfilling the UN Security Council Resolutions directed against terrorism and is a party to all the essential international anti-terrorist conventions.

Estonia is doing everything possible to prevent weapons of mass destruction from falling into the possession of terrorists as well as to identify and eliminate international terrorism's possible sources of financing.

2.5.3. Arms control and confidence building measures

Estonia supports all confidence and security building measures (CSBM) being implemented in the Euro-Atlantic region. Likewise, Estonia adheres to the norms of international arms control and confidence and security building measures. Estonia participates in both international organisations and in bilateral international cooperation, which have, as their goal, the increasing of security, confidence, and information exchange.

The Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe, the aim of which is to increase the transparency of military activity through the control of conventional arms, information exchange, and implementation of a thorough monitoring system, is an important part of ensuring European security. Estonia is following the development of the Treaty as well as the fulfilling of Treaty commitments, and is ready to start accession negotiations after the Treaty, as modified in 1999, becomes effective. Estonia joins the Treaty only if the conditions are acceptable and in accordance with Estonia's other international commitments.

Estonia does not have weapons of mass destruction and has acceded to major international agreements for preventing their proliferation. Estonia aims to prevent the illegal transit through its territory, and the possible illegal trading in and smuggling of components used for the manufacture of weapons of mass destruction. It is just as essential to prevent the manufacture, in Estonia, of these components or implements, and the spread of the respective know-how. For this purpose, a state system has been established by law for the monitoring of strategic goods, the coordination of the activities of appropriate government agencies, and extensive international cooperation, including data exchange. Estonia adheres to export control principles and appropriate EU legislation.

3. ESTONIAN MILITARY DEFENCE

3.1. Military defence in ensuring national security

The objective of Estonia's military defence is to contribute to the achieving of the goal of the National Security Policy by military means. Estonia will defend itself in any circumstance and against an enemy of any superiority.

Estonia's defence is primarily based upon membership in NATO, which creates a sufficient deterrent and restraint for preventing aggression. Estonia's military defence is planned as a North Atlantic Treaty Article 5 operation.

Estonia's military defence is ensured in cooperation with allied forces. As a member of NATO, Estonia is building up its military defence guided by NATO's collective defence principles. The basis for developing Estonia's military defence is interoperability with NATO and NATO Member States as well as cooperation within the framework of the European Security and Defence Policy. Estonia's military defence is developed according to the national priorities and objectives that are presented in the National Military Strategy. This document takes into consideration the commitments resulting from Estonia's membership in NATO, the EU, and other international organisations.

The principle of total defence is important for maintaining the unity of Estonia's military defence. Total defence is the permanent readiness of the mental, physical, economic, and other capabilities of the nation's civilian structures, local governments, the Defence Forces (*Kaitsevägi*) and Defence League (*Kaitseliit*), as well as the whole population for solving crises, for carrying out coordinated and united action to prevent and repulse aggression, and for ensuring the survival of the nation.

Estonia ensures the necessary training,. and maintaining of the perpetual readiness to defend the nation, of the Defence Forces and Defence League, together with their supporting agencies and organisations, as well as the rational utilization of all resources. The two basic purposes of military conscription are: to establish the necessary pool from which to recruit professional personnel for priority units, and to ensure the formation of reserve units.

Estonia is maintaining its defence expenditures at the level of 2% of the GDP.

The principles of Estonia's defence policy are:

- The indivisibility of security, according to which, changes in the international security environment abroad influence, to a greater or lesser degree, Estonia's national security, and vice versa.
- Solidarity and bilateral, multilateral, and regional cooperation with allies in defending common values as well as implementing confidence and security building measures.
- A credible military deterrent, according to which, defence activities are primarily directed at preventing military threats and their escalation. The credibility of Estonia's military defence results from collective defence, in which participation is ensured by: a primary independent defence capability, that corresponds to the requirements of threat evaluation; the readiness to increase Estonia's defence capability; and the ability to provide host nation support.
- The unity of military defence, and the principle of total defence, which is based upon the constitutional obligation of citizens to participate in the nation's defence, upon the support of society for military defence, and upon the coordinated cooperation of the civilian and military structures. In the process of increasing society's support for military defence, the Defence League and its branch organisations play an essential role.

• The collective defence of NATO Member States, and the deterring, and in case of necessity, repelling of military attacks. According to the North Atlantic Treaty, a military attack against any Member State is an attack against NATO as a whole. Any military activity for repelling a military attack directed against Estonia is a collective defence operation. Estonia is prepared to fulfil its commitments as an ally towards the other NATO Member States.
• Support for development of EU military capabilities within the framework of the European Security and Defence Policy, and participation in the ESDP.
• Civilian control, which is based upon: the subordination of the military to Estonia's constitutional leadership; the high occupational standards of professional military personnel, in accordance with the recognition of the limits of their authority; and the requisite competency of the nation's political leadership and government agencies in military matters.

3.2. The role of the Defence Forces and Defence League in implementing the National Defence Policy

The Defence Forces is a militarily organized and structured institution subordinate to the Government and under the governance of the Ministry of Defence. The Defence League is a voluntary defence organisation under the governance of the Ministry of Defence.

A priority of the Defence Forces and Defence League is the development of modern, multi-purpose, deployable, mobile, sustainable, rapid response units. Such units are best able to ensure the protection of national interests, and to make it possible for Estonia to be an active and dependable NATO and EU Member. As a participant in NATO's collective defence, Estonia does not have to independently develop all military capabilities.

The Defence Forces and Defence League, together with the Ministry of Defence, ensure the readiness to fulfil the following basic military defence tasks:

• collective defence and the management of international crises directly threatening the security of Estonia and/or other NATO Member States;
• demonstration of national sovereignty for the purpose of ensuring control over Estonia's territory, territorial waters, and airspace;
• participation in international crisis management and peace operations, including EU operations;
• international defence cooperation;
• assistance to civilian structures in the solving of emergency situations.

The National Military Strategy determines Estonia's Concept of Military Operations and the Defence Forces structure.

4. PROTECTING CONSTITUTIONAL ORDER AND SECTORS OF VITAL IMPORTANCE; ENSURING PUBLIC SAFETY

4.1. Consolidating the rule of law

From the standpoint of Estonia's national security, it is essential to ensure the functioning of democratic institutions and the rule of law as well as to ensure the protection of the fundamental rights and freedoms of persons. The administrative, law enforcement, and judicial system are being strengthened and developed to ensure a government based upon the rule of law.

The continuous development of the civil society is essential for the functioning of democratic institutions and the rule of law. The prerequisites for the development of a civil society are the openness of society, the promotion of citizens' initiative, and the availability of quality education.

The consolidation of a balanced and democratic society in Estonia is enhanced by the implementation of its Integration Policy. Estonia guarantees the rights of persons belonging to minorities, as well as helps to integrate the various ethnic and social groups into society. The integration of Estonian society is based upon two parallel processes: integrating society on the basis of knowledge of the Estonian language and the acquiring of Estonian citizenship, and, on the other hand, supporting the preservation of ethnocultural diversity. To ensure the efficient functioning of Estonia as a nation, it is essential to implement its Population Policy, the goals of which are to stem demographic decline and the general aging process of Estonian society, and to achieve, in the future, a positive growth rate of the population.

4.2. Enhancing internal security

Estonia's Internal Security Policy encompasses the functions of the state's internal security agencies and the general structure of the system as well as participation in activities ensuring international security. The main functions of the Internal Security Policy, for achieving the goal of the National Security Policy, are the ensuring of domestic stability, and the protecting and saving of human lives.

4.2.1. The activities of security agencies

The goal of the activities of the security agencies, the Security Police Board (*Kaitsepolitsei*) and Information Board (*Teabeamet*), is to ensure national security and maintain constitutional order through non-military preventive measures. To achieve this goal, and for the outlining of the National Security Policy, the security agencies collect and process information, on the basis of which the fundamental principles of the National Security Policy are formulated. The activities of the security agencies are coordinated through the Government's Security Commission.

The Security Police Board collects and processes information concerning activities, which are aimed at the violent breach of constitutional order and territorial integrity of the state. The Security Police Board's functions are: to prevent espionage, protect state secrets, and combat terrorism and corruption. In legislatively stipulated circumstance, criminal cases are investigated.

The Information Board collects intelligence concerning foreign countries and developments and events abroad needed for the formulation of Foreign, Economic, and Defence Policy. The Information Board performs counter-intelligence functions for the protection of Estonian diplomatic missions, and Defence Forces units stationed abroad. The Information Board also organizes and monitors the implementing of the measures adopted for the security of electronically transmitted information.

The Information Board and the Security Police Board participate in the work of relevant institutions, fulfilling essential counter-intelligence functions and protecting electronically transmitted information. The system for safeguarding state secrets is being further developed in the context of classified NATO and EU documents.

It is ever more essential to obtain timely information concerning developments dangerous for national security. To counter security threats, the security agencies develop domestic and international cooperation. As Estonia broadens the scope of its participation in international crisis management and peace operations, the information collected by the security agencies concerning international crises becomes ever more significant.

To counter the spread of terrorism, the security agencies are developing, in parallel with domestic activities, international cooperation, primarily, to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, and to identify and eliminate international terrorism's possible sources of financing.

The Security Police Board, together with law enforcement agencies, prevents the infiltration of organised crime into politics, government agencies, and local administrations. In addition to the substantial legal base, which has been established for the fight against corruption, there is an important role for the Anti-corruption Strategy adopted by the Government.

4.2.2. Maintaining law and order

The central government agency in the fight against organized crime is the Central Criminal Police (*Keskkriminaalpolitsei*). In this sphere, the Central Criminal Police cooperates closely with other police agencies, the Security Police Board, the Board of Border Guard (*Piirivalveamet*), the Tax and Customs Board (*Maksu- ja Tolliamet*), and the Prosecutor's Office (*Prokuratuur*). The systematic fight against organized crime must concentrate upon the avoidance and prevention of crimes providing large illegal profits.

Greater emphasis is being put upon making more efficient use of various opportunities offered by Interpol and Europol as well as upon cooperation with neighbouring states. It is also necessary to establish a witness protection system, in order to participate in international witness protection programs.

Taking into consideration the globalisation process, and the fact that international events are taking place more frequently in Estonia, it is important to develop capabilities for ensuring security at public events.

4.2.3. Ensuring border security and migration control

The qualified guarding and control of the borders is essential for ensuring Estonia's national security. Effective guarding of Estonia's border, which is the EU's external border, helps to ensure the security of Europe as a whole, and is conducted in compliance with requirements established in the EU.

The Board of Border Guard prevents the illegal crossing of the borders, ensures efficient processing at checkpoints, and is responsible for maintaining the high standards of border control. To ensure border security, and in the fight against illegal migration, organized crime, terrorism, and other forms of crime, it is essential to establish the integrated border security model. This encompasses all aspects of border control: measures being implemented both on external borders and inside the country, appropriate measures being implemented both in the country of origin and in the transit country, and domestic and international cooperation in the sphere of border security.

Estonia is establishing an integrated migration control system. Its various measures and contemporary biometric identification methods must be used to prevent the entry into Estonia and staying here of those foreigners who might threaten Estonia's security.

To prevent any possible negative developments due to the international borders between Estonia and other EU Member States ceasing to function as a result of Estonia's upcoming accession to the Schengen Area, cooperation is being increased with other Member States in the sphere of investigations and migration control.

4.2.4. Emergency management and services

To maintain internal security, it is essential to be prepared for, and to react on time to emergency situations. For this purpose, a national system of measures for emergency management has been established by the Emergency Preparedness Act with the goal of ensuring security and public safety in case of an emergency. In emergencies, it is also necessary to ensure the functioning of vitally important sectors, to protect the essential infrastructure, and to secure public information. To keep vitally important sectors functioning in an emergency, it is necessary to reorganize the system of strategic reserves and adapt it to the nation's needs. It is important to ensure, that the rescue service, law enforcement, energy, transportation, electronic communication, environment, health, and social service agencies are well supplied and trained. In the interests of internal security and the management of emergency situations, a national special purpose radio communications system will be established.

The essential part of emergency management is risk analysis, in the course of which, the probability of emergency situations and their possible consequences and preventive measures are formulated and adapted.
The Rescue Board and other providers of emergency services have, in cooperation with the Border Guard Board, a central role in the saving of people's lives and property, and in carrying out essential operations for the protection of the environment. The Estonian Disaster Relief Team has been created to increase Estonia's international emergency capabilities.

4.3. Strengthening economic, social, and environmental security

4.3.1. Strengthening economic security

The fast, balanced, and sustainable growth of the economy is essential for achieving the goal of the Estonian National Security Policy. For economic security, it is in Estonia's interest to promote the diversification of external economic relations. To achieve this, it is essential to maintain a stable economic environment, which, among other things, ensures Estonia's attractiveness for foreign capital from dependable sources.

Estonia ensures the reliability of its financial system. For the alleviation of international crises and their economic consequences, it is necessary to ensure the existence of essential stabilization and reserve funds within the framework of the nation's financial system.

In the context of the development of East-West transit trade, it is possible to be successful despite increased competition and the political influences being exerted upon economic processes.

The regulation of the electricity market and the development of the appropriate infrastructure must ensure a reliable supply of electrical power for consumers so as to ensure the performing of essential functions of the state. In the gas market, the activities of gas suppliers must be thoroughly monitored, and opportunities must be found for diversifying the nation's gas supply connections. In the heat market, conditions are being created, which ensure, that the populace would be supplied with heat even if delivery of the basic fuel should be disrupted. In the liquid fuel market, a liquid fuel minimum reserve is being created, which would, at the least, meet the EU quantitative requirement, and the effective utilization of which would be ensured if the normal supply of liquid fuel should be disrupted. A certain amount of the whole liquid fuel reserve could be stored in another EU Member State.

In accordance with international standards, Estonia is enforcing the security requirements of Estonian harbours, ships, airports, and aircraft.

To prevent computer crime and threats to internal security, which could arise from the vulnerability of IT systems, as well as to ensure the security of national data bases and registries, necessary organisational, information technology, and physical security measures are being implemented. Unless this is done, computer crime could develop into a dangerous form of organized crime on par with illegally trading in arms and narcotics.

4.3.2. Enhancing social safety

To enhance the nation's social safety, it is essential to solve labour market problems, establish a sustainable social security system that covers risk groups, and educate and train a sufficiently large qualified work force to ensure the continuation of economic growth.

In the case of public health emergencies, there could be large numbers of people requiring medical care due to the outbreak of contagious diseases, poisonings, or exposure to radiation. Estonia is establishing its national preparedness for public health emergencies, basing it upon close cooperation with other EU Member States.

Fighting contagious diseases, including the spread of HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis, is the state's responsibility. In Estonia, measures for preventing the spread of particularly dangerous contagious diseases are implemented in accordance with international medical regulations. National programs are being implemented to reduce drug addiction, to limit the spread of HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis.

4.3.3. Enhancing environmental safety

Estonia fulfils the obligations deriving from the Convention on the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Baltic Sea Area and implements measures to prevent the spread of hazardous substances as well as to control sources of pollution both on land and at sea. Estonia is increasing preparedness to combat marine pollution.

Estonia's aim is to ensure, in cooperation with other nations, safer shipping in the Baltic Sea and, primarily, in the Gulf of Finland. Estonia supports the establishing of limitations upon single-hulled tankers shipping heavy oil products, and the establishing of the requirement, that in the winter, only ice-strengthened tankers be used.

To ensure the safety of Baltic Sea region nuclear power stations, Estonia participates actively in relevant working groups that have been established by international organisations. To be properly prepared for dealing with emergencies involving chemical and radiological pollution, the specific technical equipment and other necessary supplies of the relevant agencies are being updated, and training exercises are being carried out on a regular basis.

To prevent the uncontrolled spread of genetically modified organisms (GMO) into the environment, Estonia has imposed strict requirements concerning the import, risk analysis, labelling, monitoring, and controlling of GMOs.