

JOINT STATEMENT BY THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE OF ITALY AND
THE MINISTRY OF NATIONAL DEFENCE OF LITHUANIA
ON DEPLOYMENT OF ITALIAN SAMP/T SURFACE BASED AIR AND MISSILE DEFENCE SYSTEM TO
LITHUANIA

6 February 2025

[Vilnius], Lithuania

We

1. Condemned Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine and reaffirmed support for Ukraine for as long as it takes.
2. Reiterated the importance of defence cooperation between the Italian Republic and the Republic of Lithuania in enhancing the forward presence of forces along NATO Eastern border, as part of NATO 360° approach.
3. Acknowledged the very active participation of the Italian Defence in NATO's Baltic air policing mission and the significant Italian contribution to training and exercises and expressed gratitude to Italian men and women in uniforms for their dedication, professionalism and excellent cooperation with Lithuanian counterparts.
4. Announced the decision to deploy an Italian fully manned and equipped SAMP/T detachment, to Šiauliai, Lithuania in current month of February.
5. Emphasized that this deployment is conducted in the framework of NATO's Integrated Air and Missile Defence Rotational Model, endorsed at the NATO summit in Vilnius, reaffirmed during NATO summit in Washington and aimed to ensure rapid transition from peacetime through crisis until conflict.
6. Highlighted that this deployment plays a key role in enhancing deterrence and defence against air and missiles threats by strengthening the readiness, preparedness, and interoperability of NATO's Integrated Air and Missile Defence.