

## radeloughe praijode speki

National Armed Forces of the Republic of Latvia

## NACIONĀLO BRUŅOTO SPĒKU KOMANDIERIS CHIEF OF DEFENCE REPUBLIC OF LATVIA

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No. 2/VN/474

Dear Andrus

\_\_\_\_\_ July 2024

Brigadier General Andrus Merilo,

It is with great pleasure that I extend my heartfelt congratulations to you on your appointment as the Commander of the Estonian Defence Forces. Your selection is a testament to your exceptional leadership, unwavering commitment, and proven dedication to the security and well-being of Estonia.

As we navigate the complex and ever-evolving landscape of regional security, it is imperative that we strengthen our collaborative efforts to safeguard our shared interests and uphold the principles of peace and stability. Latvia has long recognized the importance of fostering robust partnerships within the region, and we are eager to continue our successful cooperation with our neighbor- Estonia, under your esteemed leadership.

In light of the ongoing challenges facing our region, including heightened tensions and security threats, it is essential that we stand united in our efforts to promote security and prosperity for all, especially within North Atlantic Alliance. Our collective commitment to enhancing military capabilities, conducting joint exercises, and sharing intelligence underscores the depth of our cooperation and our shared resolve to confront emerging security challenges head-on.

In order to further promote our military cooperation and further deepen the interests of our nations, I would like to invite you to hold an official visit to the Republic of Latvia. For further questions and information, please contact the Major Sandis Kuklis, Head of Chief of Defence Bureau (sandis.kuklis@mil.lv, +371 67071093).

In closing, please accept my sincere congratulations once again on your appointment as the Commander of the Estonian Defence Forces. I am confident that under your capable leadership, our partnership will continue to thrive, and together, we will navigate the complexities of regional security with resilience and determination.

Lieutenant General Leonīds Kalniņš

Brigadier General Andrus Merilo Chief of Defence Republic of Estonia