



REPUBLIC OF ESTONIA
DEFENCE FORCES

General Fabien Mandon
Général d'armée
Chef d'état-major des armées
État-Major des armées
60 Boulevard du Général
Martial Valin
75509 PARIS Cedex 15
FRANCE

11.06.2026 No 3.5-1/26/361

Dear Fabien

Dear General,

Hereby I am forwarding you the invitation to participate as a speaker at the 20th Annual Baltic Conference on Defence (ABCD) held on 22-23 September 2026 in Tallinn, Estonia.

The theme of the conference is "Choosing to Win: Building Confidence in Complexity". ABCD is a regional defence and security conference. For the second time, ABCD will take place as part of the Estonian Defence Week linking a series of events showcasing Estonia's defence sector and bringing together security experts to discuss regional, European and global foreign and security policy issues.

I would also like to emphasise the strategic importance of events such as the ABCD in the Baltic region, situated on NATO's eastern flank. As the war in Ukraine continues to affect Europe and Russia actively challenges the unity and determination of the democratic world, maintaining close cooperation and candid discussions among allies has never been more important.

By coming together, sharing experiences, and addressing common challenges, we send a clear message to our adversaries, reassure our allies, and strengthen the confidence of our people. Our collective commitment to protecting freedom, preserving democratic values, and ensuring lasting security remains unwavering. Your input as the Commander of the French Armed Forces, would be most valuable.

It would be a great honour for us if you could find time in your busy schedule and speak at the conference and moreover, we would have an opportunity to discuss mutual matters as well.

Yours Sincerely,

Andrus Merilo
Lieutenant General
Commander of the Estonian Defence Forces

Attached: ABCD invitation by the Minister of Defence and the Director of ICDS