



REPUBLIC OF ESTONIA
MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS
AND COMMUNICATIONS

Viktors Valainis
Ministry of Economics of the
Republic of Latvia
Brivibas iela 55
LV-1519, Riga, Latvia

Our Ref: 05.03.2026 No 6-4/834-1

Save the Date – NB8 Economy and Industry
Ministers' Meeting

Dear Mr Valainis,

In 2026, Estonia has the honour of serving as the Chair of the Nordic-Baltic Eight (NB8). In this role, we would like to bring together NB8 Ministers responsible for economy and industry for a strategic and forward-looking discussion on how our region can strengthen its economic and industrial contribution to security, resilience and growth.

Russia's ongoing war against Ukraine has fundamentally changed Europe's security environment. It has also underscored a reality that is directly relevant to us: security today depends not only on military capabilities, but increasingly on industrial capacity, resilient supply chains, and the ability to mobilise investment and innovation at speed.

The Nordic-Baltic region is a deeply integrated and like-minded economic area of 33 million people and, taken together, represents the world's 10th-largest economy. Acting together, NB8 countries have the scale, technological capability and capital to play a leading role in developing defence and dual-use industries, supporting Ukraine, and strengthening Europe's long-term competitiveness.

Against this background, I would like to invite you to **save the dates of 21–22 September 2026** for an NB8 Ministers' meeting to be held in **Tallinn alongside Estonian Defence Week (21–25 September 2026)**.

- **22 September 2026 will be the core day of the meeting**, including a closed ministerial discussion, engagement with the Estonian Defence Week EXPO, and a joint public panel discussion at the Estonian Defence Industry Symposium.
- I would also be delighted to **host an informal dinner for NB8 Ministers on the evening of 21 September**.

We encourage Ministers to attend together with defence-focused business delegations. Bringing political leadership and industry together will allow us to move beyond general discussions and focus on concrete cooperation opportunities, including cross-border partnerships, joint investments, and industrial collaboration within the NB8 region.

A detailed programme and a formal invitation will follow in due course. For the time being, I would be grateful if you could indicate whether you are able to reserve these dates in your calendar. Should you have any questions or wish to share your initial availability, Peeter Kadarik would be delighted to serve as the contact point (peeter.kadarik@mkm.ee). More information about Estonian Defence Week can be found at: www.edw.ee

I very much look forward to welcoming you to Tallinn in September 2026.

With best regards,


Erkki Keldo
Minister of Economy and Industry

Peeter Kadarik
+372 5886 2963 peeter.kadarik@mkm.ee