70th Session of the UN General Assembly First Committee
Thematic discussion on Regional disarmament and security
29 October 2015 (20th meeting)
Joint Statement of Estonia, Lithuania,
Poland and Latvia
delivered by Mr Jānis Mažeiks,
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Latvia

Mr. Chairman,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of Estonia, Lithuania, Poland and Latvia.

We highly value the importance of best practices and exchange of information among States in the fields of maritime and air traffic, both civil and military. It provides a significant contribution to the building of mutual understanding and confidence.

We believe that high safety standards are in the interest of both civil and military air and maritime traffic.

With this background and understanding, we would like to remind of existing international regulations and call upon States to ensure proper civil – military coordination in order to guarantee the safety of civil navigation and to further improve the overall climate of trust between States, in particular in the Baltic Sea region.

First, we would like to recall the importance for both air and maritime traffic to fully respect the obligation to ensure the safety of navigation of civil aircraft as well as civil maritime activities.

Second, States could demonstrate their good will by ensuring that all aircraft, civil and military, operating in areas with heavy civil air traffic make use of transponders. We would like to recall that each State party to the Convention on International Civil Aviation (the Chicago Convention), undertakes, when issuing regulations for their state aircraft, to ensure that they operate with due regard to the safety of navigation of civil aviation.

In this regard we underline the importance of discussions in existing international mechanisms. In particular, we welcome the ongoing work on addressing these matters at the International Civil Aviation Organisation.

All of these practices would allow countries to avoid unnecessary misunderstanding and false interpretation of military activities in international maritime and air traffic, thus enhancing transparency and mutual confidence.

Thank you.