

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002342/24
to the Commission
Siegbert Frank Droese (ESN)
(30 October 2024)**

Subject: Opening of a NATO headquarters in Rostock

In light of the Two Plus Four Treaty, what is the Commission's view of the opening of the Baltic Commander Task Force in Rostock, which at least in the media is being called a 'NATO Headquarters' ⁽¹⁾ and in which a total of 13 NATO countries are involved and NATO officers from countries such as Sweden are explicitly participating ⁽²⁾ and which has been set up as a result of efforts to adapt NATO's command structure?

Submitted: 30.10.2024

**Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Kallas on behalf of the European Commission
(7 January 2025)**

In line with the 2023 third Joint Declaration on EU-North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) cooperation ⁽¹⁾, NATO remains the foundation of collective defence for its allies and essential for Euro Atlantic security.

The EU welcomes initiatives that are strengthening the collective defence of Europe. Nevertheless, the newly established Baltic Sea Command Task Force in Rostock does not fall under the remit of the EU and is not part of the EU-NATO cooperation.

In this regard, the High Representative/Vice-President fully aligns with the agreed guiding principle of decision-making autonomy of both organisations.

¹ See, *inter alia*, <https://www.ostsee-zeitung.de/lokales/rostock/rostock-nato-eroeffnet-aus-angst-vor-russland-neues-hauptquartier-in-mv-5KU3CR4FQRHWNC56ORO2SSL4KQ.html>

² See <https://www.forsvarsmakten.se/en/news/2024/10/new-command-to-lead-natos-naval-forces-in-the-baltic-sea/>

⁽¹⁾ <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2023/01/10/eu-nato-joint-declaration-10-january-2023>