

# Is Poland ready to host NATO exercise Defender Europe 2025 again?

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The next large-scale NATO exercise Defender Europe 2025 is approaching. Last year, the exercise was held on a grand scale and caused a lot of trouble for the Polish logistics system.

Polish military officials are probably not feeling very comfortable this year, expecting a repeat of last year's events. Ensuring the transfer of arriving allied troops turned out a great challenge for Poland.

In particular, the road network in the north did not allow to transfer troops within the time limits according to NATO standards. In addition, the weight and size characteristics of NATO weapons systems became another problem for Polish road services.

To resolve the problems, a working group was created in the Polish Ministry of Defense. Its goal is to prepare projects for the creation of the necessary transport infrastructure in the region for the reception and deployment of allied troops in the country.

However, the formed group faced a number of bureaucratic procedures and currently cannot solve the tasks set before it. Following a number of meetings of representatives of the Ministry of Defense and the contact group, it was not possible to reach a compromise between representatives of the Ministry of Infrastructure, companies associated with Polish railways and freight transport, as well as officials of local governments.

Traditionally, the main problematic issue is to gain a mutual

understanding with local governments for the implementation of a number of projects, and most importantly – their financing.

Thus, the mayor of the provincial Slupsk mentioned that the total investment could amount to more than 500 million dollars. But the question arises: who would want to finance a purely military project?

In particular, we are talking about the modernization of the port Ustka, the construction of a high-speed highway connecting the largest cities in the region, as well as the improvement and construction of new railway lines. Moreover, the key project should be the construction of a highway that will connect Ustka with Bydgoszcz.

With just over four months to go until the start of the Defender Europe 2025 exercise, there has been no progress in addressing the identified issues. For now, progress has stalled at the initial stage of negotiations and the search for investors.

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