

# BALTIC INTERNATIONAL SECURITY CENTRE

German Media · Press Briefing | 11 September 2026

Reporting period: 4-10 September 2026

## Baltic Security in the German Press

- **4 September 2026** — Latvia: EUR 12m for new anti-tank positions on its borders with Russia and Belarus

NEWS HOTSPOT · 4 SEPTEMBER 2026

### The Baltic defence line keeps growing — Latvia expands anti-tank positions

- 4 September 2026: **Latvia** is advancing construction of **anti-tank trenches and concrete barriers** at its borders with Russia and Belarus for roughly **EUR 12 million** (FOCUS Online). The move is part of the longer-term build-out of Baltic defensive positions on **NATO's eastern flank**, agreed by Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia back in 2024.

#### BOUQUETS THIS WEEK

- ★ **FAZ** (*Jüri Reinvere*) — nuanced guest essay — sober Baltic/Nordic take on the AfD result instead of reflexive alarm
- ★ **Berliner Zeitung** — only outlet in the sample with a dedicated focus on economic countermeasures; correctly and independently explained the ECJ ruling

#### BRICKBATS THIS WEEK

- ▲ **taz** — republishes a speculative threat scenario largely without critical framing and describes NATO's presence in the Baltics in a misleadingly compressed way. Also several factual errors, incl. confusing the NRF/ARF with the NATO Force Model (40,000 vs. 300,000)
- ▲ **junge Welt** — framed the raid on bookseller Mnogoknig without its security rationale — reads as cultural suppression rather than a security measure

#### WEEKLY SUMMARY

### How the German press covered the Baltics this week

*Extract — see the German briefing for the full analysis, quotes, and media-by-media breakdown.*

**Coverage** — The most heavily covered story (4 outlets, 7 pieces) was domestic: after the AfD's win in Saxony-Anhalt, Lithuanian President Nausėda voiced "disappointment" but still expects Germany to honour its Panzer Brigade commitment (**ntv, 7 Sep**); German outlets debated restricting a possible AfD-led Saxony-Anhalt government's access to "Operational Plan Germany," which governs Germany's hub function for NATO forces to the eastern flank, with pushback from the state chancellery itself (**FOCUS Online, 10 Sep**).

Separately, Latvia and Lithuania stepped up pressure on Russia/Belarus (border fortifications, a 300-percent grain tariff, and an **asset freeze** (7 Sep), which has tripped up at the ECJ (**Berliner Zeitung, 7 Sep**).

A third strand comprises varying threat perceptions: Finland's Stubb sees "neither indications nor facts" for an attack in coming years; similarly Romania's Miruță cites "no indication whatsoever" Russia wants to attack a NATO member, and Latvia's PM says the threat level is simply unchanged.

Estonia's FM Tsahkna demanded sharper language for Russian sabotage, calling it "state-sponsored terrorism," not "hybrid warfare."

Against that, **taz** (9 Sep) republished a "how could it happen" scenario from Russian exile outlet **iStories** (7 Sep), and Putin critic Garry Kasparov — via the political opposition platform Forum Free Russia, not a newsroom — put escalation odds at "at least 50 percent" with no data behind it, while demanding US nuclear missiles at Poland's border. A separate FFR piece cited Ukrainian analyst Kowalenko: a real warning sign would be Russian field hospitals near the Estonian or Finnish border — not currently observed.

**Gaps** — No outlet linked Latvia's and Lithuania's countermeasures into a single pattern, nor flagged that Kasparov speaks as a political actor, not a journalistic source.

#### SOURCES

- FOCUS Online: "**12 Millionen Euro für Abwehr: Lettland stärkt Nato-Ostflanke**" (4 Sep 2026)
- Berliner Zeitung: "**Litauen friert Vermögen russischer Energietochter ein: EuGH kippt Putin-Argument**" (7 Sep 2026)
- ntv: "**Litauens Staatschef zeigt sich nach AfD-Erfolg in Sachsen-Anhalt enttäuscht**" (7 Sep 2026)
- taz: "**Russischer Angriff aufs Baltikum: „Die Nato ist auf einen Drohnenkrieg nicht vorbereitet“**" (9 Sep 2026, via iStories)

- FOCUS Online: "[Pistorius erwägt, streng geheimen Plan vor AfD zu verbergen](#)" (10 Sep 2026)
- FAZ: "[Blick aus dem Baltikum: Die AfD stärkt Putins Einfluss auf Deutschlands Politik](#)" (8 Sep 2026, Gastbeitrag Jüri Reinvere, Paywall)

All links last accessed 10 September 2026.

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