

BALTIC INTERNATIONAL SECURITY CENTRE

German Media · Press Briefing | 25 September 2026

Reporting period: 18–24 September 2026

Baltic Security in the German Press

• **19–24 September 2026** — Riga reports Macron's consent to talks on French nuclear deterrence · Latvia abstains on EU delisting of two oligarchs · Latvia and Estonia impose national sanctions · Nausėda: new US contingent on its way to Lithuania · Four German Eurofighters protect Latvia's election · European intelligence chiefs see Russian action against NATO as possible

NEWS HOTSPOT

Latvia announces talks with France on nuclear deterrence

• Latvian Prime Minister Andris Kūrbirgs says President Macron has agreed to open **negotiations on Latvia joining France's nuclear deterrence initiative** and pledged **a stronger French military presence, especially in air defence**; earlier, Latvia **dropped its opposition to the EU delisting of two Russian oligarchs (and abstained instead)**.

BOUQUETS THIS WEEK

★ **FAZ, 22 Sep** (*Gutschker, Schmidt, Locke*) — places Baltic attack scenarios in the context of Russian exercises and capacities and sets Baltic assessments, including its own interview with Marek Kohv (ICDS), against them

★ **Frankfurter Rundschau, 24 Sep** (*Jan-Frederik Wendt*) — own interview with Estonian MEP and former general Riho Terras, who says situation is "serious" but that a Russian attack would fail

BRICKBATS THIS WEEK

▲ **Frankfurter Rundschau, 22 Sep** — presents as fact that Russian jets entered Lithuanian airspace; only the Italian scramble is confirmed, the violation was denied to **LRT** on 18 Sep, uncorrected

WEEKLY SUMMARY

How the German press covered the Baltics this week

Extract — see [the German briefing](#) for full analysis, quotes, and media-by-media breakdown.

Coverage — Europe's intelligence chiefs warn, the Baltics urge calm. **SPIEGEL, 21 Sep** sums up in its lead that Baltic colleagues warn against "panic and overreaction"; Mežviets' pointer to Russian preparations follows only in the text, and no Baltic voice speaks of overreaction. taz and FR are more worried.

EU sanctions deal: two oligarchs delisted, Latvia's security interests in the background. Thirteen outlets, mostly wire-based, focused on pressure from Paris, Bratislava and Luxembourg, including France's reported link to prisoners in Azerbaijan. Latvia's reasoning mostly got one line, quoting Foreign Minister Braže. **FAZ, 22 Sep** read Riga's last push as face-saving before the 3 October election, **SZ, 23 Sep** as caving in, and wrongly reported Latvian approval instead of abstention. With the national sanctions on 24 Sep, Latvia appeared as an actor in its own right.

Hypothetical Narva scenario: a small Russian operation could split NATO. FAZ and **WELT, 23 Sep** discuss hypothetical limited operations in which detection, attribution and a joint NATO response would be decisive. The WELT piece has no Estonian voice.

Allied presence, thinly covered. Four German Eurofighters arrived in Lielvārde to protect Latvia's election (t-online/dpa, citing misrouted Ukrainian drones, not Russian jamming). President Nausėda said a new US contingent is "already on its way" to Lithuania — in the sample only on MDR.

Gaps — Latvia's announced talks with France (**Reuters, 22 Sep**) appeared in the sample only as a possibility (SZ) and a NachDenkSeiten link. Support in Germany for military help to the Baltic states fell to 44% (–6 points), while 55% back force if Russia attacks an eastern ally (**ZMSBw**); no piece in the sample reported these figures.

SOURCES

→ FAZ: "[Wo würde Russland das Baltikum angreifen?](#)" (22 Sep)

→ Frankfurter Rundschau: "[„Wäre Nagel für Putins Sarg“](#)" (24 Sep)

→ LRT: "[„Kariuomenė tikslina: Rusijos orlaiviai tikrai nepažeidė Lietuvos oro erdvės“](#)" (18 Sep)

Accessed 25 Sep 2026.