BALTIC INTERNATIONAL SECURITY CENTRE

German Media · Press Briefing | **6 November 2026**

Reporting period: 30 October – 5 November 2026

Baltic Security in the German Press

● **30 October – 4 November 2026** — Reuters: Pentagon asked the Baltic states to tone down their rhetoric on Russia · Poland: defensive deployment on the Kaliningrad border after warnings of Russian provocations · Berlin Security Conference with Lithuania as partner; German-Lithuanian defence agreement · Exercises in Lithuania and Latvia

NEWS HOTSPOT

Warnings of Russian provocation: Poland guards its border, Lithuania keeps watch

● According to Prime Minister Donald Tusk, Poland **prevented possible provocations** on the Kaliningrad border on the night of 3 November; whether it was one "can never be fully confirmed" (**SPIEGEL, 3 Nov**). Lithuania keeps up **reinforced monitoring of its border with Kaliningrad**; the interior ministry sees **no need for further reinforcement**. The **German 45th Armoured Brigade is setting up electronic warfare and reconnaissance positions** (**LRT, 3 Nov**).

BOUQUETS THIS WEEK

★ **SZ, 30 Oct** *(Viktoria Großmann)* — reports on the Lithuanian youth petition for universal conscription, quotes Ema Šidlauskaitė (Young Liberals) and Umberto Masi (president of the Lithuanian youth association) at length and calls the Soviet occupation by its name

★ **FR, 2 Nov** *(Florian Naumann)* — interviews Māris Andžāns, director of the Centre for Geopolitical Studies, in Riga; he sees gaps in Latvia's defence (air defence, civil protection) and asks Germany for more military responsibility: "We need more Germany here."

BRICKBATS THIS WEEK

▲ **FR, 30 Oct** *(Nail Akkoyun)* — reports, based on Reuters, on US requests to the Baltic states to tone down their rhetoric on Russia but drops Reuters' caveat that it was not clear which specific statement Elbridge Colby's rat comparison referred to (**Reuters, 30 Oct**), and calls the requested change of tone "a clear change of course" without citing the Baltic reactions already published, such as Prime Minister Michal's statement that he would not soften his tone on Russia (**ERR, 30 Oct**); this may give the impression that Colby's criticism was aimed at Estonia's prime minister

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 — Poland's defence against possible Russian provocation dominates; Lithuania's parallel measures go largely unnoticed. In the sample, 12 items in 10 outlets covered it, mostly agency copy; **BILD, 3 Nov** headlined "Alarm on the border with Russia!". In the 8 complete texts, Lithuania is only Kaliningrad's neighbour; none mentions that Lithuania and the German brigade responded to the same warnings.

Germany's military role in Lithuania; Lithuanian priorities underrepresented. Eight outlets covered electronic reconnaissance (**FAZ, 30 Oct**), exercises, the Berlin Security Conference and the Greens leader's trip. Pistorius: "An attack on Lithuania would be an attack on all of us" (**n-tv, 4 Nov**). President Gitanas Nausėda's statement that some recent Russian attacks are "in essence kinetic" (**LRT, 3 Nov**) is quoted in none of the texts available.

Gaps — Of two drone incursions into Latvia, only the second (3 November) appears in the German texts checked, in MDR's live blog; the first, most likely a Russian Geran according to the armed forces (**LSM, 3 Nov**), appears in none of the German texts checked. Four outlets covered the Pentagon's request to the Baltic states, none with a Baltic reaction.

SOURCES

→ LRT: "Lenkijai pranešus apie galimą provokaciją, Vokietijos brigada Lietuvoje imasi stebėjimo" (3 Nov, Lithuanian, Baltic primary source)
→ SPIEGEL: "Großeinsatz in Polen an Grenze zu Kaliningrad" (3 Nov, AFP/dpa)
→ n-tv: "Deutschland vertieft militärische Zusammenarbeit mit Litauen" (4 Nov, dpa)

All links last accessed 6 Nov 2026.