



NATO DEFENSE SPENDING: INTERNATIONAL RELATION

NEWS: *NATO members reluctant to endorse Trump's defence spending proposal*

WHAT'S IN THE NEWS?

U.S. President-elect Donald Trump proposed raising NATO members' defense spending to 5% of GDP, sparking debates over feasibility amid security concerns like Russia's aggression in Ukraine. NATO, currently with 32 members, is expected to revise the target to 3% of GDP at the June 2025 summit.

1. Trump's Proposal for Increased Defense Spending

- **Proposed Target:**
 - Raise defense spending by NATO members to 5% of GDP from the current 2% target.
 - Aimed at ensuring fair burden-sharing and bolstering the alliance's military readiness.
- **Current Compliance:**
 - No NATO member, including the U.S., currently meets the 2% defense spending target.

2. Challenges and Feasibility of the 5% Target

- **Economic Feasibility:**
 - Meeting the 5% target would require significant increases, amounting to hundreds of billions of dollars.
 - Many member states face budgetary constraints, making this target economically unrealistic.
- **Political Resistance:**
 - Domestic pressures in member countries often prioritize social spending over defense.
 - Increasing defense budgets requires political consensus, which is difficult to achieve.
- **Current Struggles:**
 - Many NATO members are struggling to meet the current 2% benchmark.

3. Expected Developments at the NATO Summit

- **Revised Target:**
 - At the NATO Summit in The Hague (June 2025), the defense spending target is likely to be revised to 3% of GDP.
 - Although more feasible than 5%, the new target will still be challenging for several nations.

4. Rationale for Increased Defense Spending

- **Security Concerns:**
 - Russia's aggression in Ukraine has intensified the need for a stronger NATO deterrent.
 - Other global security challenges further justify the push for increased spending.
- **Reducing U.S. Dependence:**



- European nations are under pressure to take greater responsibility for their own security.
- Calls for reducing reliance on the U.S. have gained momentum.

5. European Perspective and Initiatives

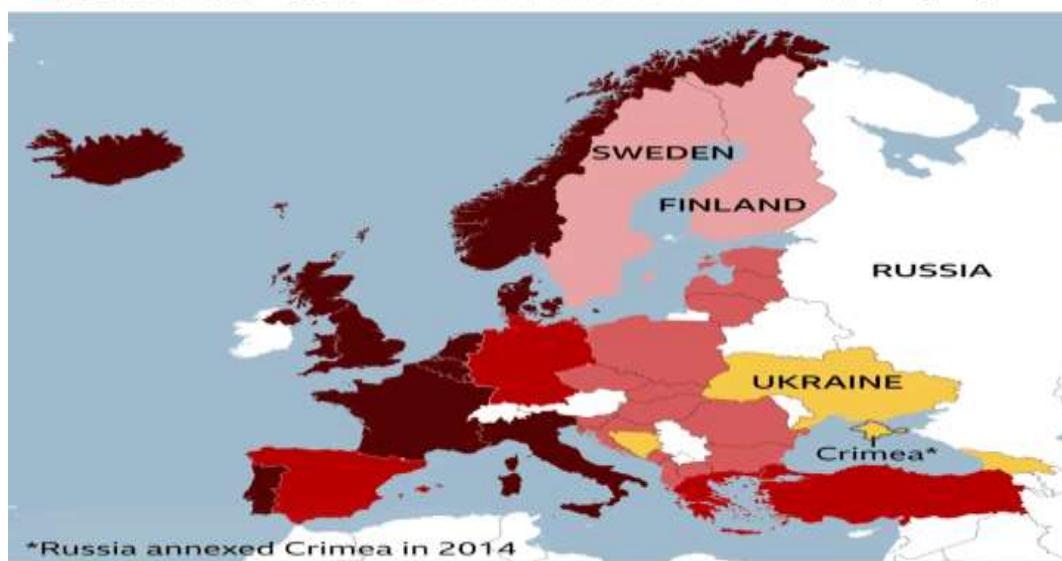
- **Push for Self-Reliance:**
 - European nations propose enhancing their independent defense capabilities.
 - Initiatives include joint EU borrowing for military upgrades.
- **Balancing NATO and EU Roles:**
 - While committed to NATO, European members aim for a balanced approach to transatlantic security and European autonomy.

6. NATO: Overview and Members

- **Formation and Purpose:**
 - NATO was formed in 1949 with the signing of the Washington Treaty.
 - It aims to safeguard the freedom and security of its members through political and military means.
- **Core Principle:**
 - Article 5: An attack on one member is considered an attack on all, establishing the principle of collective defense.
- **Membership:**
 - NATO started with 12 founding members and now has 32 members.
 - **Founding Members (1949):** United States, Canada, Belgium, Denmark, France, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, and the United Kingdom.
 - **Recent Addition:** Sweden became the 32nd member in March 2024.
- **Headquarters:**
 - Located in Brussels, Belgium.

Nato's European expansion since 1949

- Founder members 1949
- Joined 1950-1996
- Joined 1997-2022
- Joined since 2022
- Applying to join





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