



NATO PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

# MEETING OF NATO MINISTERS OF DEFENCE

5 June 2025

Policy Brief

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**MEETING OF NATO MINISTERS OF DEFENCE, 5 JUNE 2025:**  
**KEY TAKEAWAYS**

NATO Ministers of Defence convened in Brussels for a meeting of the North Atlantic Council on 5 June 2025. This was the **last meeting at the ministerial level prior to the Summit** of Heads of State and Government in The Hague on 24-25 June. Ministers also met for the Ukraine Defence Contact Group, an Informal NATO-Ukraine Council Working Lunch and the Nuclear Planning Group.

Focus of the Meetings

- **Allied deterrence and defence**
  - new capability targets
  - significantly higher defence spending
  - defence industry and defence production
  - NATO nuclear posture and adaptation
- **Support for Ukraine**
  - further military and financial support
  - Ukraine's defence industry

Decisions

- **Defence ministers endorsed:**
  - **new capability targets**
  - **a new NATO Strategy to Counter Hybrid Warfare**

Additional notes

- Several Allies joined two established **multinational High Visibility Projects to enhance cooperation in the air domain.**
- **General Alexis Grynkeuich** was announced as the new Supreme Allied Commander Europe (SACEUR).

## I. ALLIED DETERRENCE AND DEFENCE

### New capability targets

- **Defence Ministers agreed an ambitious new set of capability targets** to build a stronger, fairer and more lethal Alliance as well as to ensure warfighting readiness for years to come.
- **NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte emphasised that** “these targets set out what forces and concrete capabilities the Allies need to provide to strengthen our deterrence and defence.”
- Mark Rutte identified **air and missile defence, long-range weapons, logistics, large land manoeuvre formations as well as command and control systems as top priorities.**

### Significantly higher defence spending

- The new capability targets are the basis for **a new defence investment plan which is expected to be approved at the NATO Summit in The Hague.**
- Mark Rutte confirmed that his proposal **calls for Allies to invest 5% of GDP in defence, including 3.5% on core defence spending as well as 1.5% of GDP per year on defence and security-related investment**, including in infrastructure, resilience and industry.
- **NATO Secretary General underlined that the increase of core defence spending to 3.5% of GDP** is directly related to the newly agreed ambitious capabilities targets, but also to the existing gaps based on the slow pace of delivering capability targets agreed in the past.
- **Mark Rutte explained that** “this 3.5% core defence spending is really deeply rooted in a process which has taken four years to complete, the NATO Defence Planning Process.”
- **Mark Rutte stressed that the additional 1.5% of GDP** should be spent “basically on security and defence related matters like military mobility, making sure that the defence industrial base is developed, making sure that our societies are well prepared for situations where war might potentially break out.”

### Defence industry and defence production

- **NATO Secretary General underscored that the combination of new capability targets and the significantly higher defence spending should allow** “for defence industries to take their necessary commercial decisions, not to increase prices, but to increase the production lines, to increase the shifts.”
- **Mark Rutte confirmed that he wants to make defence industrial issues a priority for NATO in the second half of 2025.** He underscored the critical impact defence industrial production has on Allied economies and job creation.

## II. SUPPORT FOR UKRAINE

### Further military and financial support

- NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte **reaffirmed Allied support for Ukraine noting that this year alone, Allies had pledged over EUR 20 billion in additional security assistance for Ukraine.**

- **Mark Rutte stressed that Allies will design their new defence investment plan** “in such a way that it will not impact the way our Allies are working with Ukraine” to make sure that Ukraine has the necessary capabilities “to stay in the fight and be in the best possible position in the peace talks.”
- **During the Ukraine Defence Contact Group new aid packages and important steps of support were announced:**
  - ✓ **The United Kingdom** announced an aid package for drone supplies – GBP 350 million, which will allow the transfer of 100,000 drones to Ukraine in 2025;
  - ✓ **Germany** approved a new military aid package worth EUR 5 billion. The package includes funding for long-range weapons to be produced in Ukraine, transfer of air defence systems, weapons and ammunition;
  - ✓ **The Netherlands** provided an aid package worth EUR 400 million, including a mine countermeasure vessel, boats and maritime drones;
  - ✓ **Belgium** announced a long-term initiative: annual assistance to Ukraine amounting to EUR 1 billion until 2029 and the transfer of a mine countermeasure vessel.
  - ✓ **Norway** allocated USD 700 million for drones, focusing on supporting the Ukrainian defence industry, and EUR 50 million to the NSATU Trust Fund.
  - ✓ **Canada** allocated USD 45 million for drones, electronic warfare systems, IT solutions, Coyote and Bison armoured vehicles.
  - ✓ **Sweden** announced EUR 440 million for international programs to procure artillery ammunition, drones and other weapons for Ukraine.
- Five additional Allies – Belgium, Sweden, Italy, Türkiye, and Estonia – joined the **Electromagnetic Warfare (EW) Coalition**.

#### **Ukraine's defence industry**

- **During the Ukraine Defence Contact Group further steps to enhance Ukraine's defence industry and defence industrial productions were discussed:**
  - ✓ A Western European company announced the production of modern anti-Shahed missiles in Ukraine;
  - ✓ The UK and Ukraine will jointly produce lightweight multirole missiles and launchers;
  - ✓ Rheinmetall is building advanced Lynx combat vehicles in Ukraine;
  - ✓ Ukrainian companies will continue to produce ammunition under license from Nammo (Norway–Finland);
  - ✓ SAAB (Sweden), Kongsberg (Norway), KNDS (France–Germany), FFG (Germany), and Raytheon (USA) are expanding their presence in Ukraine.

#### **Informal NATO-Ukraine Council working lunch**

- **NATO Defence Ministers convened with their Ukrainian counterpart, Rustem Umerov, as well as the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Kaja Kallas, during an informal NATO-Ukraine Council working lunch to discuss the current battlefield situation and Ukraine's assessment on the peace talks.**
- NATO Secretary General confirmed that **he invited Ukraine to the NATO Summit in The Hague.**

### III. ADDITIONAL NOTES

#### **Multinational High Visibility Projects to enhance cooperation in the air**

- **Canada, Denmark, Norway and Poland joined the NATO Flight Training Europe (NFTE) High-Visibility multinational initiative**, which aims to ensure the delivery of state-of-the-art pilot training across Europe in a cost-efficient and interoperable manner. Since its launch in 2020, eight military campuses have been fully accredited for NFTE training and six are undergoing certification. NFTE training includes basic, intermediate and advanced training for fighter jet, helicopter and transport pilots as well as personnel who remotely pilot uncrewed aircraft.
- **Canada, Croatia, Czechia, Luxembourg, Montenegro, the Netherlands and Slovenia** agreed to join the 21 other Allies that participate in **the Cross-Border Airspace Cooperation initiative**. Launched in 2023, this initiative aims to develop larger airspace solutions, including cross-border, that are better suited to accommodate training events for modern air capabilities and systems.

#### **New Supreme Allied Commander Europe (SACEUR)**

- NATO Secretary General informed that the North Atlantic Council approved the nomination of **Lieutenant General Alexis G Grynkewich**, United States Air Force, to the post of **Supreme Allied Commander Europe**.
- **Lieutenant General Grynkewich is currently serving as Director for Operations of the Joint Staff**. Upon completion of national confirmation processes, he will take up his appointment as the successor to General Christopher G. Cavoli, United States Army, at a change of command ceremony at the Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe in Mons, Belgium, expected in the summer of 2025.