



NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION

The Hague Summit Declaration

issued by the NATO Heads of State and Government participating in the meeting of the North Atlantic Council in The Hague 25 June 2025

Shortest statement in history of 33 NATO summits

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Short and sweet to avoid clashes with US President Trump

1. We, the Heads of State and Government of the North Atlantic Alliance, have gathered in The Hague to reaffirm our commitment to NATO, the strongest Alliance in history, and to the transatlantic bond. **We reaffirm our ironclad commitment to collective defence** as enshrined in Article 5 of the Washington Treaty – that an attack on one is an attack on all. We remain united and steadfast in our resolve to protect our one billion citizens, defend the Alliance, and safeguard our freedom and democracy.
2. United in the face of profound security threats and challenges, **in particular the long-term threat posed by Russia to Euro-Atlantic security** and the persistent threat of terrorism, Allies commit to invest 5% of GDP annually on core defence requirements as well as defence-and security-related spending by 2035 to ensure our individual and collective obligations, in accordance with Article 3 of the Washington Treaty. Our investments will ensure we have the forces, capabilities, resources, infrastructure, warfighting readiness, and resilience needed to deter and defend in line with our three core tasks of deterrence and defence, crisis prevention and management, and cooperative security.
3. **Allies agree that this 5% commitment will comprise two essential categories of defence investment.** Allies will allocate at least 3.5% of GDP annually based on the agreed definition of NATO defence expenditure by 2035 to resource core defence requirements, and to meet the NATO Capability Targets. Allies agree to submit annual plans showing a credible, incremental path to reach this goal. **And Allies will account for up to 1.5% of GDP annually to *inter alia* protect our critical infrastructure, defend our networks, ensure our civil preparedness and resilience, unleash innovation, and strengthen our defence industrial base.** The trajectory and balance of spending under this plan will be reviewed in 2029, in light of the strategic environment and updated Capability Targets. **Allies reaffirm** their enduring sovereign commitments to provide

Strong commitment to Article 5 mutual defence clause in contrast to Trump's public equivocation

Sole mention of Russia, no reference to Putin's war vs Ukraine

Huge increase in defence spending pledge vs 2% promised in 2014. Big win for Trump
Widened definition of defence spending leaves room for creative accounting. Review date after Trump term ends

Instead of "we commit", wording changed to "allies" without the definite article to allow Spain to claim opt-out, angering other allies. Target date pushed back to 2035 from 2032 suggested by Rutte and 2029 sought by eastern allies

support to Ukraine, whose security contributes to ours, and, to this end, will include direct contributions towards Ukraine's defence and its defence industry when calculating Allies' defence spending.

Wording on aid to Ukraine allows each ally to do as little or as much as they want. No pledge of multiannual aid programme for Kyiv

4. We reaffirm our shared commitment to rapidly expand transatlantic defence industrial cooperation and to harness emerging technology and the spirit of innovation to advance our collective security. We will work to eliminate defence trade barriers among Allies and will leverage our partnerships to promote defence industrial cooperation.
5. We express our appreciation for the generous hospitality extended to us by the Kingdom of the Netherlands. We look forward to our next meeting in Türkiye in 2026 followed by a meeting in Albania.

could be read as criticism of EU rules for access to EU-funded arms programmes, and of US tech export restrictions

No mention of past pledges of membership for Ukraine and Georgia. No mention of Western Balkans. No mention of Russian invasion and war of aggression against Ukraine, nor of Russian hybrid warfare against Europe. No mention of nuclear deterrence. No mention of arms control. No mention of China as security challenge.