



**“In fact, the issue is always between two points”**

# **Weekly Political and Geopolitical Developments**

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## Geopolitical and Global Developments:

### **THE NEW SECURITY ARCHITECTURE OF EUROPE AND STRATEGIC UPHEAVALS: A SECURITY-BASED ANALYSIS IN THE CONTEXT OF THE UK, GERMANY, AND RUSSIA** **Prof. Dr. Murat KOÇ**

#### **Introduction**

In the post-Cold War era, Europe's security architecture was largely rebuilt around stability and cooperation. However, the annexation of Crimea in 2014 and Russia's large-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022 drastically altered perceptions of security across the continent. By 2025, the UK's warnings of "war readiness," Germany's claims that "Russia could attack NATO," and the projected surge in defense spending all point to a remilitarization of Europe's security landscape.

#### **1. The UK's War Readiness: Redefining Deterrence**

The UK's discourse on war preparedness is not merely rooted in threat perception but also in the need to reestablish deterrence capacity. In this context, the UK is working to modernize both its nuclear capabilities and conventional forces. Its readiness against Russia's hybrid threats in Europe includes not only military enhancements but also strengthening cyber and energy security domains. This strategy may also be seen as an attempt to reaffirm the UK's leadership role on NATO's northern flank.

#### **2. Germany's Shift in Security Paradigm: Remilitarization**

Germany's departure from its traditionally defensive foreign policy marks a structural transformation in Europe's security architecture. The German Chief of Staff's statement that "Russia could attack NATO within four years" is not just a military forecast but also a political call to mobilize. Germany's establishment of a €100 billion special defense fund and its aim to strengthen independent military capabilities may signal the emergence of a Germany-centered security order in Europe. This development is likely to reshape burden-sharing debates within NATO.

#### **3. Rutte and the NATO Summit: New Parameters of Collective Security**

At NATO's 2025 Hague Summit, decisions are expected to increase defense investments. Rutte's leadership in this process signals that not only the Netherlands but also small and medium-sized European countries are seeking more active roles in security. NATO's reinforcement of its eastern borders, enhancement of rapid deployment capabilities, and bolstering of forward defense bases reflect a redefinition of collective defense principles.

#### **4. Russia's Strategic Orientation and NATO-Russia Relations**

Russia's military actions in Ukraine are perceived by the West not merely as acts of war, but as part of a long-term attritional strategy. Yet Europe's focus on war preparedness has the potential to limit this strategy. Meanwhile, Moscow's continued reliance on its nuclear deterrent renders the strategic balance fragile. Russia's pressure tactics through Belarus targeting Central Europe will likely necessitate NATO to reinforce its defenses in the Baltics and Poland. In this context, Europe-Russia relations are increasingly evolving into a hostile confrontation based on "hard security."

#### **5. Security Approaches of France, the US, and Turkey**

France continues to support the idea of a European army within the framework of its traditional strategic autonomy. However, the Macron administration's recent alignment with NATO suggests a growing French engagement in European security.

The United States, aiming to reinforce its leadership within NATO, is increasing its military presence in Europe. However, due to its commitments in the Asia-Pacific, it is also demanding greater contributions from European allies. This dynamic rekindles the debate around "strategic autonomy" in Europe.

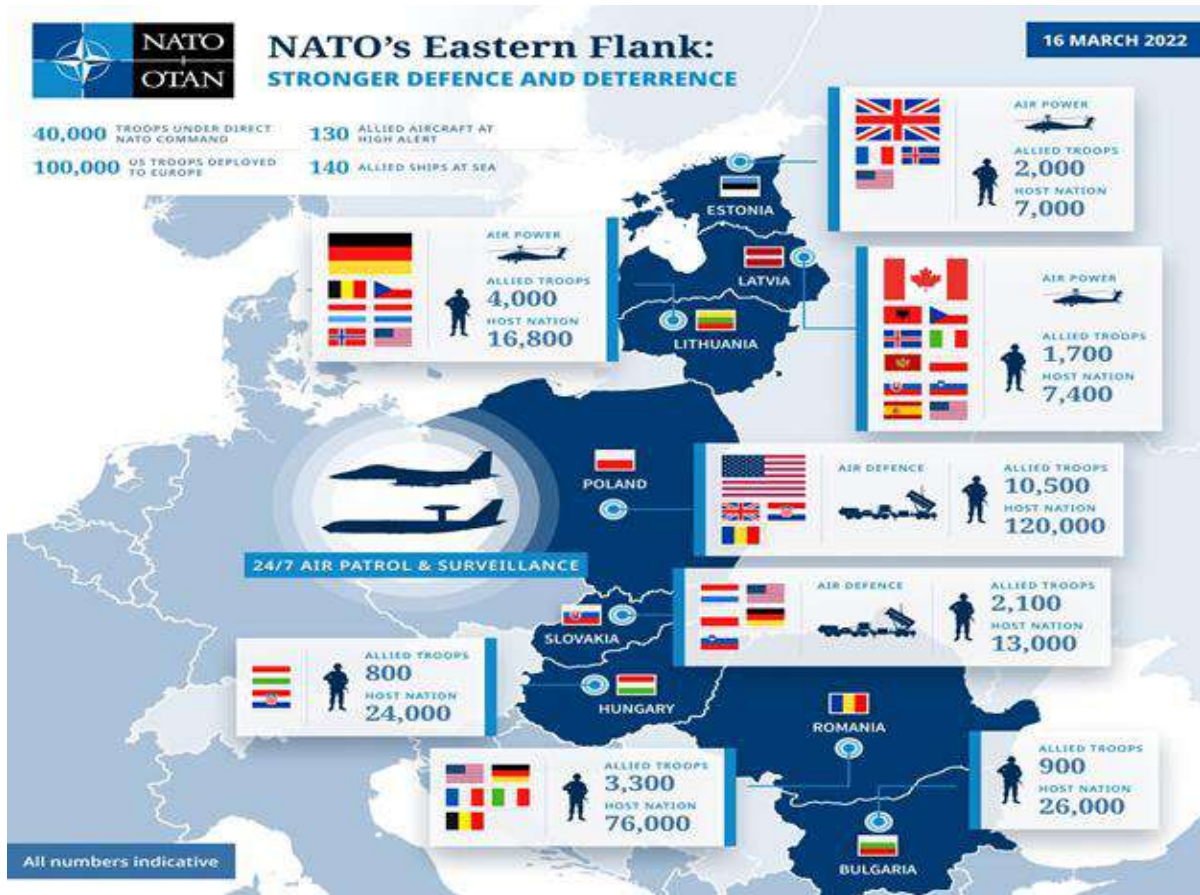
Turkey, on the other hand, is becoming a central actor in NATO's defense strategy through its role in Black Sea security, Southeastern Europe, and the Caucasus. It also represents a vital component of European security in energy security, migration management, and counterterrorism.

## 6. The War in Ukraine and the Evolving Security Environment

The future course of the Ukraine war largely depends on the consistency of Western military and political support. The increase in military capacity and the emergence of new security strategies among European countries directly affect Ukraine's defensive posture. However, this may also extend the war's "long war" dynamic and complicate diplomatic resolution efforts. Consequently, Europe's ability to bear the financial costs of the war and manage its internal political stability will be tested.

### Conclusion: A New Security Architecture or a New Security Crisis?

Europe's new security architecture is being reshaped through increased defense spending, military capacity-building, and collective deterrence. However, its sustainability hinges not only on military might but also on diplomatic and economic solidarity. Whether this structure, shaped under the geostrategic pressure of Russia, will lay the groundwork for a new intra-European cohesion or deepen a Cold War-style bloc rivalry will become clearer in the coming years.



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