

Rede des Bundesministers der Verteidigung

Boris Pistorius

beim Empfang

**anlässlich des Festaktes des
Bundespräsidenten zum 70. Jahrestag des
NATO-Beitritts**

am 28. April 2025 in Brüssel

Sprechzeit: ca. 5 Min

Es gilt das gesprochene Wort!

- Ort: Brüssel, NATO HQ, Compassroom.
- Publikum: ca. 300 geladene Gäste, hochrangige Vertreterinnen und Vertreter der NATO, internationale Gäste, Botschafterinnen und Botschafter einiger Partnernationen.
- Ablauf: Festakt (Rede NATO Generalsekretär, Rede Bundespräsident), danach Eröffnung digitale Fotoschau. Anschließend Empfang: Botschafter von Geyr eröffnet mit einem Grußwort. Im Anschluss halten Sie Ihre Rede.
- Rednerpult mit Mikrofon.
- Empfang ist nicht presseöffentlich.

Mr. President, dear Frank-Walter, [Bundespräsident]

Secretary General Rutte, [Mark Rutte]

Ambassador von Geyr, [DEU Ständiger Vertreter im Nordatlantikrat]

Excellencies,

honoured guests,

ladies and gentlemen!

It is a privilege to speak to you today on this very special occasion,
and in this special place.

Marking the 70th anniversary of Germany's accession to NATO here
in Brussels, at the heart of our Alliance, is a powerful symbol.

It underlines our deep gratitude to our Allies and it reaffirms
Germany's unwavering commitment to this Alliance, now and in the
decades to come.

But today's anniversary also moves me personally. For someone who
grew up during the Cold War, it has significance beyond politics.

Like many of us here, I still remember divided Germany very well. A
country shaped by walls and watchtowers on the one side. But
protected by the promise of collective defence on the other side.

That promise was made in 1955, when the Federal Republic of Germany joined NATO, just ten years after the end of World War II.

It was a historical step, made possible by the trust and support of our Allies. We will never forget this.

I am well aware that we have to live up to that promise in safeguarding security and peace, in particular with and through NATO. It is our duty.

For seven decades, NATO has been the cornerstone of Germany's security, and for even longer, a pillar of peace and stability across the Euro-Atlantic area.

It was NATO that helped us overcome the confrontation with the Soviet Union peacefully.

It was NATO that helped setting the conditions for Germany's reunification.

And it is NATO that still secures our freedom today.

NATO and its Allies have shown strong unity and cohesion during the months and years following Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine.

We stand with each other in times of war and crises. And as defensive Alliance we do everything in our power to prevent any military adversary from ever attacking any of us.

Peace should not be taken for granted. That was true in 1955 and it is still true in 2025. To deter aggression, we must be ready to defend ourselves — credibly, jointly, and with resolve.

Just as we were able to rely on our Allies' support during the Cold War, Germany is telling our Eastern European and Baltic friends today: Your security is our security. Those words are backed up by our actions:

Like many of our Allies, we have significantly increased our defence spending and we will continue to do so. Fair burden-sharing is essential for the strength of our transatlantic bond.

We continue to contribute substantially, especially along NATO's eastern and northern flank. Our permanent combat brigade in Lithuania sends a strong message of solidarity and readiness.

So do our contribution to air defence and air policing in the region, our leadership of the Commander Task Force Baltic as well as our engagement in Baltic Sentry and our role in NATO's Reinforcement and Sustainment Network. In all these areas, Germany is stepping up.

Germany has made strengthening our defence posture a top priority. Germany will invest a historic amount in its security. It is thereby investing substantially in the security of its Allies.

Let me be clear: This is not just a matter of resources or capabilities. It is also a matter of historical responsibility.

In 1955, the Allies accepted Germany into NATO at a time when trust was not easy, and memories of the war and the horrific German crimes were still fresh.

That act of trust laid the foundation for Germany's return to the international community as a sovereign nation fully committed to the rules-based international order. That act of trust shaped the free and democratic country we are today.

That is why it matters deeply to us to give something back. To be reliable. To be forward-leaning. And to be prepared to stand together: as part of the transatlantic, and of the European family.

Together with our European Allies, Germany is eager to assume more responsibility for European security and to make the Alliance even stronger.

Dear friends,

one thing is certain: NATO can rely on Germany.

Thank you for your trust over the past 70 years. Thank you for your partnership today. Today's challenges are considerable. Let's tackle them together.

United, ready, and strong.