

**Joint Statement of the Defence Ministers of  
France, Germany, Italy, Poland and the United Kingdom  
Group of Five**

14 November 2025

**A Year of Enhanced Cooperation: Strengthening European Defence**

One year ago, on 25 November 2024, here in Berlin, the Defence Ministers of France, Germany, Italy, Poland and the United Kingdom established the Group of Five to foster deeper cooperation and accelerate action on critical defence and security challenges for Europe in light of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine. Today, we reaffirm our commitment to strengthening Europe's defence and outline our future trajectory.

**Achievements – One Year of Group of Five**

The first year of the Group of Five has been marked by significant achievements across several key areas:

- i. Regular and Enhanced Dialogue:** We have established a regular, ministerial forum for candid and substantive exchange on strategic priorities, emerging threats, and operational challenges. This dialogue has been consistently informed by, and coordinated with, our Allies and partners in NATO and the European Union, strengthening the overall European security architecture.
- ii. More agility for the European defence industry:** The Group of Five has actively promoted an ambitious approach with regard to cutting bureaucracy and simplification of domestic and European procurement processes to drive growth, innovation, agility and interoperability between our defence industries. As part of our efforts to address Europe's most pressing capability needs, we note the EU's effort of the framework of the EU Defence Readiness Omnibus Simplification Act, streamlining procedures and fostering greater efficiency in EU defence cooperation complementing NATO's efforts.  
We have agreed to cooperate in initiatives through which we will work together in support of the European industry, including the selection and procurement of joint capabilities.
- iii. Strengthening Ukraine's Defence Industrial Base:** Recognizing the impressive response of Ukraine's industry in supporting the countries fight against Russia's war of aggression, and its critical long-term importance to a sovereign Ukraine, the Group of Five has prioritized support for Ukraine's defence industry. This has included:
  - 1. Facilitating the establishment of joint ventures between European and Ukrainian companies, leading to the establishment of production facilities in Ukraine that deliver urgently needed weapons and material to Ukraine's armed forces.
  - 2. Promoting vital experience exchange between the Ukrainian defence sector and European industry, fostering innovation and best practices of Ukraine's experience from the battle field.
  - 3. Encouraging direct investment in Ukraine's defence capabilities.
  - 4. Investing in and supporting the development by European companies of production facilities within Ukraine.
  - 5. Fostering the common interests of Ukrainian and European companies and the long-term integration of Ukrainian companies into the European industrial base.

## Way Ahead – Group of Five Remains Committed

The Group of Five remains steadfast in its commitment to strengthening European defence. We will continue to prioritize the following themes:

**i. Sustained Support to Ukraine:** Our unwavering support for Ukraine will continue to be a central pillar of our work. This will focus on:

1. Continuing to maximise support to Ukraine through military aid, including through the Ukraine Defence Contact Group.
2. Developing a long-term strategic framework for security assistance and industrial cooperation with Ukraine.
3. Integrating the Ukrainian defence industry into European initiatives and value chains.
4. Demonstrating firm commitments to Ukraine's long-term security.

**ii. Strengthening Defence and Warfighting Readiness:** We will enable greater European contribution to Euro-Atlantic security by focusing on delivery of our NATO Capability Targets and ramping up defence industrial production to enhance the readiness and responsiveness of European armed forces.

We continue to maximise the use of EU and NATO frameworks and initiatives including the Defence Production Action Plan and the Rapid Adoption Action Plan and maximise the use of the full range of delivery mechanisms for meeting NATO requirements. Non-EU allies' fullest involvement in EU defence efforts is essential.

**iii. Countering Hybrid Threats:** We will intensify our cooperation in countering hybrid threats against Allies, including addressing the challenges posed by drones, cyberattacks, and disinformation. This will encompass strengthening resilience, exploring innovative defensive measures (such as drone defence systems), and enhancing information sharing among European allies.

**iv. Supporting stability in Europe:** The Group of Five remains committed to the state of integrity of the Western Balkans and supports their Euro-Atlantic ambitions.

We are confident that through continued collaboration and a shared commitment to European security and defence which includes a free and prosperous Ukraine, the Group of Five will contribute to a more secure and protected Europe.