

# NATO Pledges \$2 Billion in Military Aid for Ukraine at Ramstein Meeting

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Global Research, January 10, 2025

Region: [Europe, USA](#)

Theme: [Intelligence](#)

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*Pentagon chief **Lloyd Austin** said in Germany that participants in the Ukraine Defense Contact Group had approved a plan for **eight areas of military cooperation with Kiev until 2027**. Austin's announcement was followed by Ukrainian **President Volodymyr Zelensky's** claim that he had secured an additional \$2 billion in military assistance to help continue the futile war effort against Russia.*

As Zelensky said after the meeting in Ramstein, home to a NATO Airpower headquarters, 34 countries had pledged support in different aspects to continue the 34-month-old war, including covered air defence, information technology, demining, naval forces, air forces and artillery.

"We had a very good meeting, a very good result. There was \$2 billion in additional packages of support to Ukraine," he said in a video posted on the Telegram account. "Earlier today, a meeting of the coalition leaders' group was held with the participation of representatives of 15 countries. They approved a plan for 'coalitions of opportunity' until 2027. This way, partner countries can continue to provide assistance to Ukraine on the battlefield."

As revealed in a joint statement released by the Pentagon ahead of the Ramstein meeting, the Western allies and Kiev intended to define how to meet Ukraine's goals and military needs in the short and long term through contributions, procurement, investments, and efforts to expand defence capabilities.

In this regard, NATO **Secretary General Mark Rutte** stated ahead of the session's start that the Atlantic Alliance should do everything in its power to allow Ukraine to continue fighting.

"We need to do everything possible to make sure that Ukraine has what it needs, in terms of training and equipment, to prevail in this fight," Rutte stressed.

According to him, it is also important to demonstrate at the session the involvement of all NATO countries in providing support to Kiev.

"The global context is that we have to bring Ukraine in the best possible position. That one day, when talks would start, at the initiative of Ukraine, on how to resolve this conflict, that they are in the best possible position to do that. And then when these talks end, it will be looked at, in a sense, whether there's a good deal or not [...] The whole world is watching. So, we have to make sure that Ukraine is in the best possible

position. And we should not forget that there is this geopolitical context at stake here,” said the NATO Secretary General.

For his part, Zelensky, during his address at the session, asked the allies for air defence systems and the deployment of a Western military contingent.

“Last year, France came up with the idea of deploying a contingent of partners in Ukraine to bring peace closer [...] That is why our goal is to find as many instruments as possible to force Russia to peace. I believe that such a deployment of partners’ contingents is one of the best instruments. Let’s be more practical in making this possible,” he said.

According to him, representatives of Great Britain have also spoken out in favour of deploying a foreign contingent in Ukraine. Zelensky did not mention any specific names or positions.

It is recalled that on February 26, 2024, after an international meeting on support for Ukraine held in Paris, Macron said he did not rule out the possibility of European troops being deployed in Ukraine. Then, three days later, during the grand opening of the Olympic Village, Macron emphasized that his position on the possibility of sending Western troops to Ukraine was balanced and well-thought-out. Nonetheless, nearly a year later, nothing has progressed from Macron’s suggestion, and it is unlikely that the British will act alone or convince partners to embark on such a reckless initiative.

Although Zelensky urged his Western allies to “not to drop the ball” and to continue providing long-term military support to his embattled country, he acknowledged that “a new chapter starts for Europe” once Donald Trump returns to the White House on January 20.

Zelensky securing only \$2 billion in military aid once again demonstrates how Western support for Ukraine is waning, despite the rhetoric at the Ramstein meeting of supporting the country until victory over Russia is achieved.

Realistically, \$2 billion will make absolutely no difference to Ukraine’s war effort, especially as Russia continues its slow but methodical advance across the front, with Ukrainian forces unable to mount any serious defence, making the whole meeting at Ramstein nothing more than performative that has achieved nothing substantial.

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