

Coalition of the Willing meets again in London, Rome, and online



Prime Minister Starmer and President Macron at Thursday's in-person and online meeting of the leaders of the states participating in the "Coalition of the Willing."

On Thursday, after concluding their two-day summit meeting, British Prime Minister Starmer and French President Macron participated in an in-person and online meeting of the leaders of the states participating in the "Coalition of the Willing." Participating from the Permanent Joint Headquarters in Northwood outside London, they were joined virtually by Italian Prime Minister Meloni and the other leaders, including President Zelenskyy, who were meeting in Rome for the Ukraine Recovery Conference, as well as the leaders of other states participating in the Coalition. They were also joined by Gen. Keith Kellogg, President Trump's Special Presidential Envoy for Ukraine, and Senators Graham and Blumenthal – the first time representatives of the U.S. have participated in a meeting of the Coalition of the Willing.

The leaders "reiterated that President Putin's unprovoked and illegal invasion of Ukraine is a flagrant violation of the UN Charter and a threat to their security interests" and underlined "their unwavering commitment to Ukraine's sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity." They commended Zelenskyy's "sincere support for U.S.-led efforts to reach peace," and "called on Russia to end attacks against civilians, and to commit to a full and unconditional ceasefire in order to negotiate a just and lasting settlement." They said they "supported further peace talks between Ukraine and Russia, praising efforts by President Trump on establishing a peace process," and "also agreed to step up action against Russia's war economy" and "develop further restrictive measures, in coordination with all relevant actors, against Russia's energy and financial sectors, including Russian oil and gas exports, the 'shadow fleet', and third country

support to Russia's war machine." They "reiterated that strong Ukrainian armed forces are the primary guarantee of the country's sovereignty and security" and agreed that while Russia's aggression continues, the states participating in the Coalition "would prioritize making sure that Ukraine gets the military and financial support it needs to defend itself in the fight now. Furthermore, they reaffirmed agreement to provide at least €40 billion in military support to Ukraine in 2025 to bolster the Security and Defense Forces of Ukraine – matching the commitment made by the NATO Alliance in 2024." They said "a primary priority for support is the strengthening of Ukraine's integrated air-defense capabilities. Leaders also agreed on further support to deter Russian massive drone attacks, and to increase financing for the production of drone interceptors. "

The leaders "reiterated their commitment to Ukraine's long-term security and to building Ukraine's ability to deter and defend against future armed attack by Russia. They welcomed the development of mature operational plans to deploy a reassurance force – the 'Multinational Force Ukraine' – once hostilities have ceased, and to help secure Ukraine's skies and seas and regenerate Ukraine's armed forces. They welcomed the establishment of a UK/French led operational headquarters to support planning activity, the commitments made by partners to contribute to the force, as well as Ukraine's readiness to issue an invitation to the force and enter into formal agreements with participating countries where necessary."

The leaders also "underlined the importance of ensuring fiscal and economic support for Ukraine. They agreed to draw up a collective plan to support Ukrainian public finances in 2026. They also recognized that free and safe navigation in the Black Sea will strengthen Ukraine's economy and restore food security, and reiterated their commitment to support demining efforts in the Black Sea." They also agreed "to continue to explore all lawful routes to ensure that Russia pays for the damage that it has done to Ukraine, including looking at further options for the use of revenues stemming from Russian immobilized sovereign assets."

The leaders were updated by the military chiefs participating in the meeting on "the significant progress made, including the completion of reconnaissance visits to Ukraine, to better understand how a post-ceasefire force could best help regenerate the strength and firepower of Ukrainian forces and provide reassurance in the years to come." They said that, following agreement on command structures for the force, they "agreed that planning should continue on an enduring, business as usual footing, to ensure that a force can deploy in the days following the cessation of hostilities. That will include a 3-star multinational operational headquarters in Paris, led by the UK and France, to oversee all tactical and operational arrangements. The headquarters, which will rotate to London after the first 12 months, will allow partners to contribute forces flexibly and deploy military teams for different operational strands of work. When the force deploys, a co-ordination cell, headed up by a UK 2-star military officer, will also be set up in Kyiv."

The leaders said that: “Following the cessation of hostilities, the force is expected to: Regenerate land forces: providing logistic, armament and training experts to assist with the regeneration and reconstitution of Ukraine’s land forces. Secure Ukraine’s skies: The Coalition will provide safe skies alongside Ukraine’s Air Force using Coalition aircraft to deliver Air Policing, reassuring the Ukrainian population and establishing the conditions for normal international air travel to recommence. Support safer seas: The existing Black Sea Task Force of Turkey, Romania and Bulgaria will be bolstered by additional specialist staff to accelerate the clearance of mines from the Black Sea and ensure safe and secure maritime access for all vessels transiting to and from Ukraine ports.”

In their announcement, the leaders said, “The military plan comes after military chiefs met in Paris on Monday to agree the strategy for the force and coordinate plans with the EU, NATO and the US and more than 200 planners from 30 international partners. Leaders have now met six times to further planning and political support for the plans. The meeting comes after Ukraine’s friends and partners pledged €40 billion of military support for the country in 2025 at the NATO Summit last month.” The British government announced the UK will contribute £4.5 billion of military support to Ukraine this year and will launch a new landmark partnership to share battlefield technology. It said that agreement, reached in June, “will boost Ukraine’s drone production capacity and link the UK’s defense industry with the cutting-edge technology being developed on the front lines in Ukraine.”

David R. Cameron
July 14, 2025