Joint Statement by European Leaders, Berlin, Dec. 15, 2025

Front row, L-R: Finnish President Stubb, Polish President Tusk, French President Macron, German Chancellor Merz, Ukrainian President Zelensky, US special envoy Witkoff, President Trump's son-in-law Jared Kushner, Italian Prime Minister Meloni. Back row, L-R: Norwegian Prime Minister Store, NATO Secretary-General Rutte, Danish Prime Minister Frederiksen, EU Commission President von der Leyen, Dutch Prime Minister Schoof, and Swedish Prime Minister Kristersson, Berlin, Dec. 15, 2025. (Photograph: Lisi Niesner/AFP/Getty Images).

European leaders including Chancellor Merz, President Macron, Prime Minister Starmer, and President Zelenskyy, as well as U.S. Presidential envoy Steve Witkoff, EU Commission President von der Leyen, European Council President Costa, and NATO Secretary-General Rutte met in Berlin on Dec. 15, 2025. Following the meeting, the European leaders (including Starmer & Costa, both of whom missed the photo) issued this statement:

"The Leaders welcomed significant progress on President Trump's efforts to secure a just and lasting peace in Ukraine. They also welcomed the close work between President Zelenskyy's and President Trump's teams as well as European teams over the recent days and weeks. They agreed to work together with President Trump and President Zelenskyy to get to a lasting peace which preserves Ukrainian sovereignty and European security. Leaders appreciated the strong convergence between the United States, Ukraine and Europe."

"Leaders agreed that ensuring the security, sovereignty, and prosperity of Ukraine was integral for wider Euro-Atlantic security. They were clear that Ukraine and its people

deserved a prosperous, independent, and sovereign future, free from fear of future Russian aggression."

"Both the US and European leaders committed to work together to provide robust security guarantees and economic recovery support measures for Ukraine in the context of an agreement on ending the war. This would include commitments to:

* Provide sustained and significant support to Ukraine to build its armed forces, which should remain at a peacetime level of 800,000 to be able to deter conflict and defend Ukraine's territory.

* A European-led 'multinational force Ukraine' made up from contributions from willing nations within the framework of the Coalition of the Willing and supported by the US. It will assist in the regeneration of Ukraine's forces, in securing Ukraine's skies, and in supporting safer seas, including through operating inside Ukraine.

- A US led ceasefire monitoring and verification mechanism with international participation to provide early warning of any future attack and attribute and respond to any breaches along with a deconfliction mechanism to work on mutual deescalatory actions that can be taken to benefit all parties.

* A legally binding commitment, subject to national procedures, to take measures to restore peace and security in the case of a future armed attack. These measures may include armed force, intelligence and logistical assistance, economic and diplomatic actions.

* Invest in the future prosperity of Ukraine, including making major resources available for recovery and reconstruction, mutually beneficial trade agreements, and taking into account the need for Russia to compensate Ukraine for the damage caused. In this vein, Russian sovereign assets in the European Union have been immobilized.

* Strongly support Ukraine's accession to the European Union."

"The leaders expressed their support for President Zelenskyy and agreed to support whatever decisions he ultimately makes on specific Ukrainian issues. They reaffirmed that international borders must not be changed by force. Decisions on territory are for the people of Ukraine, once robust security guarantees are effectively in place. They agreed that some issues would need to be resolved in the final stages of negotiations. They underlined that they would support President Zelenskyy to consult his people if needed."

"They were clear that as in any deal, nothing is agreed until everything is agreed and that all parties must work intensively towards a solution that could assure a lasting end to the fighting."

"They were also clear that any deal should protect the long-term security and unity of the Euro-Atlantic and the role of NATO in providing robust deterrence. They stated that any

elements affecting the EU and NATO will be discussed among EU and NATO members respectively."

"It is now incumbent upon Russia to show willingness to work towards a lasting peace by agreeing to President Trump's peace plan and to demonstrate their commitment to end the fighting by agreeing to a ceasefire. Leaders agreed to continue to increase pressure on Russia to bring Moscow to negotiate in earnest."

"They all committed to work on rapid further progress in the coming days and weeks to jointly conclude and endorse an agreement for a lasting peace. They reaffirmed their strong support for President Zelenskyy and the people of Ukraine in their fight against Russia's illegal invasion and in delivering a just and lasting peace."

"This statement remains open for other countries to join."

December 15, 2025.