# 2023 NATO Summit in Vilnius: Focus on Defence, Membership and Geopolitical Tensions



### NATO Summit 2023: Key Highlights and Developments

The 2023 NATO Summit commenced on July 11 in Vilnius, Lithuania, bringing together heads of state from its member countries and partner nations. Key figures in attendance included NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg and U.S. President Joe Biden. The summit, scheduled for July 11-12, is focused on critical issues such as Sweden's application for membership and the ongoing conflict in Ukraine.

Recent updates have revealed that the number of NATO allies meeting the requirement to spend 2% of their GDP on defense has doubled during President Joe Biden’s term, rising from under 10 to over 20 member states. This development follows renewed commitments made at the 2014 NATO Summit in Wales in response to Russia’s annexation of Crimea.

In related events, Stoltenberg is visiting Washington ahead of the summit to discuss defense spending and strategic concerns. He has indicated that NATO might need to increase the number of deployable nuclear warheads due to threats from Russia and China. This proposal has prompted concerns about the potential for a new arms race, with Russia already having suspended cooperation with the New START treaty.

The summit also coincides with U.S. election tensions, as former President Donald Trump has critiqued the defense expenditure of European NATO members.

These discussions and developments set the backdrop for NATO’s future strategies and defense policies.