# Far-right French leader Jordan Bardella backtracks on NATO withdrawal pledge ahead of parliamentary elections



**Far-Right French Leader Jordan Bardella Retracts NATO Withdrawal Promise Ahead of Parliamentary Elections**

National Rally president Jordan Bardella has stepped back from his party’s previous stance on withdrawing France from NATO's strategic military command. Addressing attendees at the Eurosatory arms trade show in Villepinte, Bardella emphasized France's need to remain in NATO amidst the ongoing war in Ukraine to maintain its European credibility and alliance obligations.

Mr. Bardella stated, “France mustn’t leave NATO’s military command while we are at war,” signaling a shift from his party’s 2022 manifesto that prioritized exiting the NATO command structure. This adaptation occurs as the National Rally seeks broader voter support ahead of France’s upcoming parliamentary election on June 30 and July 7, potentially leading to a cohabitation government alongside President Emmanuel Macron.

Despite this shift, Bardella remains opposed to deploying French troops to Ukraine, reflecting public sentiment against such involvement. He endorsed continuing the supply of military aid to Ukraine while cautioning against escalations with Russia due to its nuclear capabilities.

Earlier this month, Emmanuel Macron dissolved France's lower house, calling for snap elections after his party's significant losses in the European Parliament elections. This upcoming election poses high stakes as both the National Rally and the left-leaning New Popular Front challenge Macron’s centrist government amidst EU financial warnings regarding France's fiscal deficit and mounting debt.