# Germany’s €5 billion military aid package to Ukraine triggers sharp Russian backlash



Russia has expressed vehement disapproval following Germany's announcement of a substantial military aid package aimed at bolstering Ukraine's defence capabilities. The agreement, unveiled in Berlin, amounts to €5 billion (£4 billion) and includes significant investments in Ukraine's arms industry alongside a broader collaboration between German and Ukrainian manufacturers. This initiative follows a meeting between German Chancellor Merz and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, highlighting an escalating commitment from Berlin to support Kyiv amidst ongoing conflict.

The package features various significant weaponry, including an enhanced production of long-range weapons systems within Ukraine, with the German Defence Ministry projecting that many of these systems will be operational by the end of 2025. As noted by the German publication Die Welt, approximately €400 million (£335 million) is earmarked for the development of advanced Ukrainian drones, specifically the BARS and AN-196 models, as well as Flamingo drone interceptors.

In response to this military collaboration, Russian Foreign Secretary Sergey Lavrov condemned the agreement, asserting that Germany is becoming increasingly embroiled in the conflict. “Germany is being directly drawn into this war," he stated, warning that the nation risks repeating the historical errors of previous conflicts, which he believes led to calamity in the past. Lavrov's remarks reflect a broader concern within Russia regarding NATO nations' military support to Ukraine, which is perceived as an act of aggression rather than a defensive posture.

This latest package is part of a larger trend in which Germany has increased military aid to Ukraine, with a commitment that has included previous announcements of €2.7 billion and a myriad of weaponry and armoured vehicles. According to reports, these earlier packages included Marder infantry fighting vehicles, Leopard tanks, and multiple air defence systems aimed at improving Ukraine's military infrastructure. The consistency in Germany’s military support highlights its strategic shift towards more active engagement in defending Ukraine against Russian advances.

While Germany remains cautious in its approach, particularly regarding the provision of certain advanced weapon systems such as Taurus cruise missiles, critiques have emerged from various quarters. Leaked conversations suggest that there is potential for Ukrainian forces to be trained to utilise these missiles without direct German military presence, raising questions about the government's hesitance and its implications for international military strategy.

Moreover, the discussion surrounding military aid is not isolated, as Germany continues to provide additional support, including a recent €1 billion package designed to prepare Ukraine for the winter months. This winter package promises further enhancements to Ukraine's defence, encompassing additional Patriot and IRIS-T air defence systems alongside fortified ground support assets.

As tensions escalate between NATO member states and Russia, the international community is closely monitoring Germany's evolving role. The balance between supporting Ukraine effectively and avoiding an escalation into direct conflict remains a critical consideration for Berlin as it navigates geopolitical pressures in the region.

With military aid commitments now becoming a standard part of diplomatic relations in this ongoing conflict, the regional stability hinges on the response of involved parties, particularly as rhetoric heats up and accusations fly regarding military involvement and sovereignty. The implications of these developments will likely resonate well beyond the immediate conflict, shaping future interactions on the international stage.

## Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.express.co.uk/news/world/2061677/russia-attacks-germany-ukraine-military-deal), [[2]](https://www.dw.com/en/germany-to-send-ukraine-27-billion-military-aid-package/a-65612028)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.express.co.uk/news/world/2061677/russia-attacks-germany-ukraine-military-deal), [[4]](https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2024/10/17/7480183/)
* Paragraph 3 – [[1]](https://www.express.co.uk/news/world/2061677/russia-attacks-germany-ukraine-military-deal), [[3]](https://www.ft.com/content/b2eaa2c3-3def-4ce8-b09e-4a463d3311ce), [[6]](https://english.alarabiya.net/News/world/2023/10/10/Germany-delivers-its-winter-package-to-Ukraine)
* Paragraph 4 – [[5]](https://thedefensepost.com/2024/10/21/germany-military-equipment-ukraine/), [[7]](https://babel.ua/en/news/102927-germany-announced-a-new-package-of-military-aid-to-ukraine)
* Paragraph 5 – [[2]](https://www.dw.com/en/germany-to-send-ukraine-27-billion-military-aid-package/a-65612028), [[3]](https://www.ft.com/content/b2eaa2c3-3def-4ce8-b09e-4a463d3311ce)
* Paragraph 6 – [[4]](https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2024/10/17/7480183/), [[5]](https://thedefensepost.com/2024/10/21/germany-military-equipment-ukraine/)

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.express.co.uk/news/world/2061677/russia-attacks-germany-ukraine-military-deal> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.dw.com/en/germany-to-send-ukraine-27-billion-military-aid-package/a-65612028> - Germany has pledged a €2.7 billion military aid package to Ukraine, including 20 Marder infantry fighting vehicles, 30 Leopard-1 tanks, and four IRIS-T-SLM air defense systems. This commitment aims to bolster Ukraine's defense capabilities amid ongoing conflicts. Defense Minister Boris Pistorius emphasized Germany's dedication to supporting Ukraine for as long as necessary, highlighting the urgency of the situation and the need for rapid assistance.
3. <https://www.ft.com/content/b2eaa2c3-3def-4ce8-b09e-4a463d3311ce> - German Chancellor Olaf Scholz's decision to withhold Taurus cruise missiles from Ukraine has faced criticism following a leaked conversation among German air force officers. The leak suggests that Ukrainian soldiers could be trained to use these missiles without German troops' presence, challenging Scholz's cautious approach and raising questions about Germany's role in the conflict. The situation underscores the complexities of international military support and the delicate balance between assistance and escalation.
4. <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2024/10/17/7480183/> - Germany has delivered a comprehensive military aid package to Ukraine, including Leopard 1A5 tanks, Marder infantry fighting vehicles, Panzerhaubitze 2000 self-propelled howitzers, and various air defense systems. The package also comprises reconnaissance drones, mine-clearing equipment, and small arms. This support aims to enhance Ukraine's defense capabilities amid ongoing conflicts, reflecting Germany's commitment to assisting Ukraine in its defense efforts.
5. <https://thedefensepost.com/2024/10/21/germany-military-equipment-ukraine/> - Germany has unveiled a substantial military aid package for Ukraine, featuring advanced air defense systems, main battle tanks, and drones. The package includes three Patriot and IRIS-T air defense systems, 500 Stinger anti-aircraft missiles, 2,700 Strela surface-to-air missile systems, and 4,000 attack drones. Additionally, Germany will provide Leopard 1 and Leopard 2 main battle tanks, along with 140 Marder armored personnel carriers, to bolster Ukraine's ground mobility and troop protection.
6. <https://english.alarabiya.net/News/world/2023/10/10/Germany-delivers-its-winter-package-to-Ukraine> - Germany has announced an additional €1 billion military aid package for Ukraine, termed the 'winter package,' to enhance Ukraine's defense capabilities ahead of winter. The package includes an extra Patriot air defense system, two more IRIS-T air defense missile systems, 10 Leopard tanks, and three additional Gepard anti-aircraft guns, along with extra ammunition and vehicles. This support aims to bolster Ukraine's readiness in the coming months amid ongoing conflicts.
7. <https://babel.ua/en/news/102927-germany-announced-a-new-package-of-military-aid-to-ukraine> - Germany has announced a new military aid package to Ukraine, including armored personnel carriers, reconnaissance drones, Zetros trucks, and SatCom communication terminals. The Bundestag also plans to transfer 20 Marder BMPs and 15 Gepard self-propelled anti-aircraft guns to Ukraine in the future. This support reflects Germany's ongoing commitment to assisting Ukraine in its defense efforts amid the ongoing conflict.