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EU has four years to militarize – Belgian defense chief

The bloc should build up its defenses by 2030 to deter Russia even without US backing, Frederik Vansina has said

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European nations have around four years to build up their defenses enough to deter a Russian attack without US backing, Frederic Vansina, Belgium's Chief of the General Staff, has said. Moscow has dismissed speculation that it plans to attack NATO as nonsense.



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In an interview with *Le Soir* published on Friday, Vansina acknowledged that Russia does not pose an immediate threat to the West.

Swedish and Finnish soldiers perform war simulation exercises during the Baltic Operations NATO military drills (Baltops 22) on June 11, 2022 in the Stockholm archipelago. © Getty Images

"I don't want to scare the population. The Russians are not going to attack us imminently, anytime soon," he said – adding, however, that the world is *"going through the most unstable period since the end of the Cold War... with everyone arming themselves to the teeth."*

Vansina underscored the necessity of European militarization within a few years, stressing that the Ukrainians are *"buying time for us,"* and *"that's why we support them so strongly."*



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According to the general, the target date is 2030. *"By then, the war in Ukraine, we hope, will be over. Russia will be there with its army of 650,000 to 700,000 seasoned troops. So, in 2030, we must be able to tell [Russian President] Vladimir Putin that, even without the Americans, he will not win the war against Europe."*

Vansina went on to suggest that full European *"strategic autonomy"* is achievable by 2035, but only if defense budgets keep rising past the current 2% of GDP mark.

The general's remarks come amid a growing [rift](#) between the US and other NATO members. US President Donald Trump has demanded that his European counterparts significantly ramp up military spending, arguing that they should take primary responsibility for their own defense. The rift has continued to grow due to the continent's refusal to support the US in its war against Iran.

Russia has dismissed speculation that it plans to attack NATO, calling it a pretense for

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increased defense spending, while stressing that the West's *“reckless militarization”* jeopardizes global security.

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S Sjaak Spoiler 4/18/2026 at 12:31 PM 15

What war against Europe?
Is Rutte going to provoke something in 2030?

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a apparition 4/18/2026 at 1:02 PM 11

A war is already in progress. Ursula von der Leyen has the EU already fighting Russia, alongside the U.S. and U.K.. They have been supplying military equipment, training, and are allowing (assisting) direct attacks from EU countries on Russia. So they are destroying their civilian industries and wanting to convert their economies to military. Their countries are in near financial collapse and will most likely completely collapse before long. But that will not stop the EU leadership. Much like Israel's wars on all its neighbors, it's not the Jewish people but their leaders. Is this how people and countries get swept up in following the likes of Adolf Hitler

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P Pietro Donato 4/18/2026 at 2:14 PM 6

When will people get rid of Von der Krappen ?

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J **John Locke** 4/18/2026 at 7:21 PM [↑](#) 0

when Russia surrounds her bunker and all she has left is a choice of self-termination or hanging

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C **Carla Muss-Jacobs** 4/19/2026 at 12:17 PM [↑](#) 0

When her Pfizer connections say it's time to put her out to pasture.

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R **RT** 4/18/2026 at 6:54 PM [↑](#) 3

It is indeed the Jewish people, it will take several generations to remove the Zionist ideology that has been driven into every Israeli since 1948. The problem is you can't kill an ideology. It will rise again by other scoundrels like Netanyahu Milkowsky, and other fanatics.

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J **John Locke** 4/18/2026 at 7:20 PM [↑](#) 1

Ursula von der Hitler

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 **Linsen** 4/18/2026 at 8:27 PM [↑](#) 0


Might end like Mussolini.

[Reply](#)

c **carc** 4/19/2026 at 11:14 AM [↑](#) 0

The actual use World War was used years after the fighting had begun, both I and II. So, at what point will this, or a future "European War" or "Great War" be labeled "World War".

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 **Josef Liebel** 4/18/2026 at 1:16 PM ↕

-2

As daft as he and his followers are they would like to attack today but the depends production is not up to par yet

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 **vladimir pugachev** 4/18/2026 at 6:28 PM ↕

0

I think Rutte is too smart, but that Coño, Starmer, is as thick as a brick and nowhere near as useful.

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 **John Locke** 4/18/2026 at 7:19 PM ↕

0

the nazi Rutte is going to end up decorating a lamp post

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 **Pioneer Network** 4/18/2026 at 7:26 PM ↕

0

Two years ago was talk in EU that war with Russia was scheduled for 2027, now they changing it to 2030, why the delay? People do family planning and other preparation like equipping bunkers with enough food, batteries, water and so on and yet EU changing important event like war at will? It isn't fair. Once they make plans they should stick to it. What people suppose to do with all this food prepared, just discard it and buy fresh?

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 **J L** 4/19/2026 at 11:50 AM

0

Militarize for what? Operation Barbarossa 2?

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 **One Horse Guy** 4/19/2026 at 10:19 AM

1

EU has four years to militarize is pure twaddle, what we have is the WEF orcastrating **«by 2030 you will own nothing and be happy world»** remember even Ursula von der Leyen President of the European Commission was not democratically elected. They know gold is going to go through the roof and their currencies are going to widther thus they will use the

going to go through the roof and their cannons are going to weather that they will use the military to create a communist type environment full of elite corruption.

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 **Riomhaire-Ruairi-2025** 4/19/2026 at 6:48 AM

1

Why does the Belgian taxpayer even ALLOW there to be a salary/job for Frederic Vansina, Belgium's Chief of the General Staff ?

It is a tiny and irrelevant country.

They have no aerospace industry – no submarines – not much of a navy – no nuclear weapons – and not much in the way of unique natural resources....

Who is going to bother to invade / occupy Belgium ?

IF they did — then WHY ?

They have nothing anyone would want / could use.

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 **Alex Litvenenko** 4/19/2026 at 4:17 AM

0

So. Has the EU actually *penned* it into their calendar books that WW3, complete with nuclear exchanges will occur in 2030? And, nobody's up for stopping this madness? Maybe the EU could just fight itself and get out of the way for the rest of us.

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 **Mark Shane** 4/18/2026 at 9:36 PM

4

And just once could they say WHY Russia would attack? What would be the point or the goal? Actually the biggest problem the EU has is not these lying retarded clowns but 400 million people that allow them to continue spewing lies and causing misery


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 **El Calambre** 4/19/2026 at 4:13 AM

1

Yes, the level of ignorance, apathy, and stupidity in the Europe 'leadership' seems to have filtered down into the populace as well. I sometimes wonder if there is something in the water! A particularly strong dumbing down drug.


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 **Hans Rijdsdijk** 4/19/2026 at 2:04 AM

1

I really don't understand why the Europeans are so keen to start a war with Russia. What do they expect to get out of it? Taking over Russia?


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 **El Calambre** 4/19/2026 at 4:11 AM ↕

1

They seem to have a death wish. Destroy their economies, destroy their cultures, and then destroy their countries through war.

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 **El Calambre** 4/19/2026 at 4:09 AM

1

Deter Russia from what exactly? Russia has ZERO interest in invading any part of Europe. What has it got that it might want or need? Nothing of value. So, trying to occupy any part of Europe would be a massive headache, so why bother?

The word 'deter' is just EU code for 'attack'. But, in reality [none left in the EU], it would take Europe 40 years to get to the level Russia is at today, by which time Russia would have advanced much, much further.

So, the EU will never be able to catch up, and will therefore lose if it tries anything stupid.

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 **Joseph Kalman** 4/19/2026 at 3:34 AM

2

Pour childish warmongering bastard doesn't remember the horrors of WW2 in Europe that started in Europe not in Russia. The replay will be the same, the Russian Flag at the roof of the Reichstag.


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 **Wakeup Speakup** 4/19/2026 at 2:26 AM

4

The Great Reset is Agenda 2030, U.S v China, EU v Russia. Their setting the stage for WW3 as we breath.


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 **Michael** 4/19/2026 at 12:07 AM

2

Then the first thing that must be done is make every migrant age 18 to 42 serve 2 to 4 years in the military. Compulsory service, either you sign up immediately upon feet dry, or you'll be immediately deported.
Start there.

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 **Free Oregon** 4/19/2026 at 1:12 AM ↕

1

Ask the Romans how well this works.

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 **George Hartwell** 4/19/2026 at 12:21 AM

1

If Europe continues to launch drone strikes into Russia, Europe will not have to wait 4 years to find out how irrational and delusional is preparation for war with Russia. Russia, it has been suggested, must and will launch a decisive 'wake up' strike against centers connected with drone strikes launched against Russia.

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 **Dominic** 4/18/2026 at 11:59 PM

2

four years to steal as much as they can before the people will have finally had enough of being made poorer by the EU

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 **Dominic** 4/18/2026 at 11:57 PM

4

the problem is there is nothing in the EU that Russia wants.
besides its abused people in the baltics.

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 **Matthew** 4/18/2026 at 11:37 PM

1

Likely they have only a few weeks before a limited Russian missile attack on facilities,

bases, depots, bridges and rail links supporting the Kiev aggression.

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 **O. Pinkerton** 4/18/2026 at 9:29 PM

2

We have «four years» to militarize, says Belgian Vansina. Amounts to singing in the dark: In only four months, Russia produces more important weapons, than the whole EU in 8 years...

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 **Princess Laryat** 4/18/2026 at 9:28 PM

1

EU is a paper Tiger just 25% tariff threat by trump over green land force them to escape over night from green land. All praise iran

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 **C B** 4/18/2026 at 9:25 PM

1

They need to shift their entire industrial base to fidget spinners and sell them to whatever zoomer soldiers are occupying their country

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 **Pragmatist_in_another_guise** 4/18/2026 at 9:24 PM

0

The general is anticipating Belgium being tramped across, yet again, by soldiers set upon conquering territory worth having.

A sensible approach would be for the general to turn his army into mobile catering, bath, and 'comfort women' corps. These would meet the needs of foreign soldiers passing through Belgium.

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 **Malcolm** 4/18/2026 at 7:28 PM

4

The EU'S current crop of low-IQ puppet governments are so incredibly inept that the EU wouldn't be able to '*deter Russia*' if they had 40 years to build up their defences.

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Linsen 4/18/2026 at 8:26 PM ↕

-1

Indeed we are ruled by suicidal morons and again it's the Germans eager to go to the Ostfront again with their Euro Waffen SS volunteers.

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Linsen 4/18/2026 at 8:24 PM

1

If Russia was really preparing to «invade Europe», why would they wait four years until Europe is prepared and not do it now? Ah, I forgot, they are right now losing their war against the Ukraine, at least this is what the very same politicians say, so they would need to wait a little before reaching the Atlantic after their first defeat against NATO?

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Josh 4/18/2026 at 7:56 PM

3

Awfully nice of Russia to allow them to arm .

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Adamand Eve 4/18/2026 at 12:08 PM

8

They voice zero concern for the continuing deaths of Ukrainians. What is wrong with these people?

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Pietro Donato 4/18/2026 at 7:02 PM ↕

2

What is wrong with the people is that they are being daily brainwashed by the Mass Media (newspapers ,magazines , radio and TV)

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John Locke 4/18/2026 at 7:15 PM ↕

0

they are nazis

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Justin Jones 4/18/2026 at 10:48 AM

3