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# EU can't defend itself without US – NATO chief

Those in the bloc who think otherwise can “keep dreaming,” Mark Rutte has told the European Parliament



FILE PHOTO: NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte. © Global Look Press / IMAGO / dts Nachrichtenagentur

The EU would be unable defend itself without the US, NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte has said. The bloc's members would have to spend up to 10% of their GDP on their militaries, which could still be insufficient, he told the European Parliament on Monday.

His remarks came amid continued calls by some EU officials to make the bloc less dependent on America for security. In mid-January, Defense Commissioner

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Andrius Kubilius claimed the EU needed a 100,000-strong standing army to be capable of independent action.

According to Rutte, such plans would be unrealistic. *“If anyone thinks here, again, that the European Union or Europe as a whole can defend itself without the US, keep on dreaming. You can’t,”* he stated.

The secretary general warned that those who *“really want to go it alone”* should *“forget that you can ever get there with 5%”* of GDP spent on defense. The bloc would need to at least double that sum, as well as to invest in its own nuclear capability, which *“costs billions, billions and billions of euros,”* he argued, adding that going alone would mean that *“you will lose.”*

NATO agreed to the 5% spending threshold at a summit in The Hague last year. The demand was originally made by US President Donald Trump, who has since received endless praise from Rutte. On Monday, he once again lauded the president for making nations like *“Spain and Italy and Belgium and Canada”* live up to their current 2% spending commitments, as well as agreeing to the new threshold.

Washington has repeatedly stated it would be scaling back commitments to its European allies and urging them to take on greater responsibility for their own security. Last week, the Pentagon said it would prioritize *“defending the US Homeland and deterring China.”*

The EU has also felt sidelined in the US-mediated Ukraine peace talks and clashed with Washington over Trump’s push to acquire Greenland, which some European politicians claimed could put an end to *“an era of 80 years of Atlantism.”*

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 **Alan Mukando** 1/26/2026 at 10:24 PM 0

Nato's military arm links up to USA, not sure why Rutte is so afraid all the time.

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 **Олег X.** 1/26/2026 at 10:23 PM 0

EU needs to Defend it self From USA ..

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 **Sam Sarah** 1/26/2026 at 10:22 PM 0

Defend itself against whom? Nobody is interested in attacking Western Europe. Western Europe is poor in natural resources and rich in internal conflict that it has historically exported all over the world.

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 **John Kesich** 1/26/2026 at 9:26 PM 7

They should be worried about defending themselves from the psychos in Washington.

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 **Tony .w** 1/26/2026 at 9:44 PM 3

I think europeans need protecting from themselves ...amerika is the distraction ..nato and

your own governments are the REAL PROBLEM


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 **Michael** 1/26/2026 at 10:19 PM ↕

0

Nonsense.

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 **David Stael** 1/26/2026 at 10:15 PM

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The eu is not worth the time and effort needed by the US to make it a safe place. Let them flounder and continue on their path to being a third world organization. That is all they are worth.

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 **Ivo** 1/26/2026 at 10:08 PM

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Just another car sales man trying to sell you a washing machine

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 **Some Internet Dude** 1/26/2026 at 10:06 PM

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Europe can't protect itself. It is currently losing to Senegal and Sudan and other very weak African countries.

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 **J L** 1/26/2026 at 10:05 PM

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Yes, but who will defend EU from US?

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