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AfD co-chair calls for end to funding 'corrupt' Ukraine

Alice Weidel has urged German Chancellor Friedrich Merz to reestablish relations with Russia

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AfD party co-chair Alice Weidel speaks during a plenary session of the German Bundestag on March 18, 2026, in Berlin. © Lilli Förter /

Ukraine is one of the most corrupt nations on Earth and Berlin should stop funding its government, Alternative for Germany party co-chair Alice Weidel has told the German parliament.

The exposure of a series of graft scandals involving Vladimir Zelensky's inner

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circle has severely damaged his regime, which depends on hundreds of billions of euros from its European backers. As a result, several of Zelensky's closest confidants have fled the country or been forced to resign.

Weidel asked German Chancellor Friedrich Merz in the Bundestag on Wednesday if his government wants to *"continue financing one of the world's most corrupt countries with billions to prolong a hopeless war."* The co-leader of the right-wing AfD party also urged Merz to *"re-establish the broken lines of communication with Russia"* and work toward the resumption of gas imports from the country instead.

Weidel called for sanctions on Moscow to be lifted, pointing out that the US has already begun doing so, referring to a waiver for the sale of Russian oil issued by Washington this month.



Corruption concerns have also reportedly fueled resistance among EU member states, including Germany and France, to Kiev's early accession to the bloc. Zelensky has insisted that Ukraine should be admitted as soon as 2027.

"Ukraine is just not ready and has rampant corruption," an unnamed Western European official told Reuters.

Zelensky told the BBC last month that *"it is a lie that there is more corruption in Ukraine than in any other European state."*

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In November, the Western-backed National Anti-Corruption Bureau (NABU) uncovered a \$100 million kickback scheme involving Ukraine's state nuclear operator Energoatom. The ring was allegedly led by businessman Timur Mindich, a close associate of Zelensky, who fled the country hours before his properties were raided. The scandal led to the resignations of several high-ranking officials, including Energy Minister German Galushchenko, and Zelensky's chief of staff, Andrey Yermak.

In January, NABU also exposed an alleged vote-rigging scheme involving more than 40 sitting MPs, who reportedly received cash bribes in exchange for legislative votes. A number of other corruption schemes have also come to light in Ukraine over the past several months.

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A **A B** 3/20/2026 at 5:45 PM 0

Zelensky told the BBC that "it is a lie that there is more corruption in Ukraine than in any other European state."
And nobody laughed !

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T **Tony Gassner** 3/20/2026 at 5:33 PM 0

Dear Mr Zelensky, please reveal the name of the most corrupt European state, not, excluding the U.K.

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ANTENNE COPEN **Michel Fortin** 3/20/2026 at 5:31 PM 0

She was backed by Musk
That tells me everything i need to know .
Move along...nothing to see here.

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