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Von der Leyen sends Zelensky €3.3 bn after phone call

A wave of fresh graft cases has targeted Kiev's political elite as Ukraine faces a \$27 billion defense budget hole

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The EU has released another €3.3 billion (\$3.8 billion) to Ukraine following a phone call between European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen and Ukraine's Vladimir Zelensky, as Kiev faces fresh corruption cases and a surprise \$27 billion hole in its defense budget.

Von der Leyen announced the payment on Thursday immediately after speaking with Zelensky. She said the EU had already provided Kiev with nearly €15 billion this year and promised that *"more is coming."*

At the same time, she acknowledged that Ukraine's parliament has yet to pass anti-corruption, judicial, fiscal and green energy reforms required to unlock further EU funding.

The European Commission confirmed on Friday that the €3.3 billion had been disbursed. The payment



European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen © Getty Images / Dursun Aydemir/Anadolu

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marks the fourth defense tranche under the EU's €90 billion Ukraine Support Loan. The EU and its member states say they have provided a total of €224.5 billion in support to Ukraine since 2022.

The latest payout comes as Kiev seeks billions more from its Western backers to cover an unexpectedly large defense funding gap.

Zelensky told European officials last month that Ukraine needed another \$27 billion to make it through the year, according to the New York Times. The request reportedly *"surprised and unsettled"* officials, with some privately questioning whether existing funds were being spent efficiently or whether Kiev was overstating its needs.



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The fresh funding also comes amid a series of corruption investigations involving public funds, military procurement and senior Ukrainian officials.

Over the past year, scandals have reached into the energy sector, military procurement and the upper levels of government. The sprawling Midas probe uncovered an alleged \$100 million kickback and money-laundering network around state nuclear operator Energoatom. Separate investigations have targeted inflated drone contracts, the alleged theft of foreign donations and senior

officials accused of illicit enrichment.

Ukraine's Western-backed anti-corruption agencies have themselves raised concerns about graft risks surrounding defense procurement. NABU Director Semyon Krivonos said last month that major arms suppliers can have powerful beneficiaries among lawmakers, senior law-enforcement officials and other branches of government.

Russia has repeatedly argued that continued Western financing only prolongs the conflict and has cited Ukraine's corruption scandals in criticizing foreign support for Kiev. Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said last week that the *"laundering"* of Western money had become a *"form of existence"* for the Ukrainian authorities.

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Ti-Min Monfet 9/19/2026 at 6:36 PM 1

It's only taxpayer money, don't worry about it. Europe is going down the toilet, regardless.

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David Stael 9/19/2026 at 6:27 PM 0

The eu is the new nazi mafia, a true crime organization. ukraine is just one money laundering tool for the nazi leadership of the eu.

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Jim Davies 9/19/2026 at 5:53 PM 0

If Ms von der Leyen is so rich and generous, might I have her phone number?

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- 
donald phaneuf 9/19/2026 at 5:50 PM 0

She is a very dangerous person in Europe and could one of Europe's strongest of starting a war with Russia. She needs to be removed from power.

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Aunt Bee 9/19/2026 at 5:38 PM 0

Sad when a woman can't get any. That she is so frustrated she gives her peoples money away to a crack head.

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Decoy0614 9/19/2026 at 4:19 PM 0

Losing their proxy war in Ukraine has transformed numerous European politicians into blithering idiots. Von der Leyen tops the list, but Merz, Scholz, and Macron are not far down the list. And England ? Where to start.? The clown BoJo, Truss, Sunak, Starmer, and the current guy all eagerly jumped into the Ukraine mess.

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Joseph Lieberman 9/18/2026 at 10:24 PM

4

«let them eat cake» perhaps this Von der Leyen person has some scraps from her table she can offer to her fellow german citizens, especialy those whose standard of living and health is greatly diminished by the despotic ravenous hyena like pursuits of her and her friends.
Will they ever be satisted with the plunder of the resources and taxation of the future blood of their countrymen.

[Reply](#)

R

Richard Hollembeak 9/19/2026 at 3:54 PM ↕

0

And libertines are allowed to run governments , when the peasants fear them.

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S

Skip Shaw 9/19/2026 at 3:21 PM

0

Von der Leyen needs to be targeted just like Zelensky does. If President Putin would do that then things could get a whole lot better really quickly.

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