

Munich Security Conference 2026

Six Key Messages

1. **Germany is back — and Europe feels it:** Composure, determination, unity. The Chancellor leads Germany — and Europe — with calm and clarity through volatile times. Foreign policy is top-level business, and he delivers leadership Europe can rely on.
2. **Europe is awakening to its power and will to use it:** We are one of the world's most important markets. Europe has leverage — and is prepared to use it. With a combined GDP of €18 trillion, the EU's economy is larger than Russia, comparable to China and not far behind the United States. But our greatest power is our ability to be a partner. Political stability, predictability, and investment security are core European assets.
3. **The U.S. is key — but Europe stands united:** The United States is our most important ally. We are grateful for the long-standing role as a partner. Yet, we expect the current U.S. administration to recognize its true friends. Our hand is extended, but as Europeans, we will not be divided — not even by our most important ally. Germany is a committed NATO partner. By 2035, we will dedicate five percent of our GDP to defense — 3.5 percent to the Bundeswehr and 1.5 percent to critical military infrastructure and key transport routes. We know: European security and peace are being decided in Ukraine, and while Europe bears the main responsibility, peace is unimaginable without the U.S.
4. **The AfD is not an ally — it is a security threat:** German reliability and credibility are non-negotiable. The AfD stands in direct opposition to this. It acts as a fifth column for Moscow. AfD politicians attack Germany's ties to the U.S. They push for Europe to remain neutral between the U.S. and China. They engage in activities that aid Chinese intelligence. Those who question NATO, abandon Ukraine to its aggressors, and align with Beijing against the United States are not partners — neither for Europe nor for Washington. Driven by a right-wing extremist agenda, the party embodies the opposite of patriotism.
5. **Growth guides every decision:** For Germany, growth is the guiding principle. Every political decision is measured by how it contributes to growth. Only a strong economy gives us the foundation to shape outcomes — politically and militarily — in today's conflicts.
6. **The dawn of a new German defense:** We are strengthening and equipping our armed forces. €600 billion will be available for the modernization and expansion of the Bundeswehr through 2029. To make this possible, we have exempted defense spending from the debt brake. At the same time, we are renewing national service and increasing the size of our forces.

Main message: We are rising to the new reality, determined to act and lead.