

## UK and Germany Deepen Military Ties with Joint Defence Pact

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The United Kingdom and Germany have signed a Joint Defence Declaration, signalling closer alignment on security, defence industry cooperation, and continued support for Ukraine. The agreement marks a renewed post-Brexit partnership and a significant step towards strengthening NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) cohesion in Europe.

Signed in Berlin on 24 July 2024, the declaration was formalised by UK Defence Secretary John Healey and German Defence Minister Boris Pistorius. The agreement outlines new commitments to cyber defence, uncrewed aerial vehicles (UAVs), long-range precision strike systems, and joint procurement efforts, with both governments pledging to rebuild and modernise their domestic defence industries.

John Healey stated that the pact would “kickstart a deep, new defence relationship” and called European security the UK government’s “first foreign and defence priority.” His visit to Berlin follows recent diplomatic outreach to France, Poland, and Estonia as part of a wider push to re-establish Britain’s defence credibility in Europe.

Germany’s Boris Pistorius described the agreement as a major step in “strengthening the European pillar within NATO,” underlining the importance of operational interoperability, industrial coordination, and shared deterrence strategy.

The agreement is structured to include annual meetings between defence ministers and regular bilateral parliamentary exchanges to oversee its implementation. It also calls for expanded collaboration on defence research, with particular focus on advanced weapons technology and cyber resilience.

The timing of the declaration is significant. Both the UK and Germany are among the largest contributors of military aid to Ukraine. As Russia’s war drags on, the two nations are positioning themselves as principal backers of Ukraine’s defence, pledging long-term military and industrial support to ensure Kyiv remains armed and operationally capable.

Notably, the pact also includes joint strategic goals to reinforce NATO's eastern flank, with references to wider cooperation involving Hungary and Canada. This broader effort aims to deter further Russian aggression while reinforcing the alliance's collective defence posture.

While the agreement reflects the Labour government's foreign policy priorities, critics may question the long-term deliverability given the UK's defence budget constraints and previous inconsistencies in procurement. Nevertheless, this move indicates a clear attempt to reconnect with European allies and solidify Britain's place within the continental defence framework.

By investing in shared capabilities and re-engaging in structured defence collaboration, UK and Germany are making a firm statement about NATO unity and their joint role in European and transatlantic security.