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Romanian Minister Applauds US Commitment to Arm Ukraine

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Romania's Defence Minister, Ionuț Moșteanu, has publicly endorsed US President Donald Trump's pledge to maintain the flow of advanced weaponry, including Patriot missile systems, to Ukraine. The announcement, made alongside NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte on Monday, 14 July 2025, signals robust Western resolve in the face of ongoing Russian aggression.

Moșteanu, in a statement posted on his X account, described the decision as a clear message to the Kremlin. “Ukraine is not only defending its sovereignty but also safeguarding Romania’s borders and Europe’s security,” he wrote. He pointed to the recent Russian attack on Chernivtsi, a Ukrainian city with a significant ethnic Romanian population, as evidence of Moscow’s intent to perpetuate “terror” rather than pursue peace.

The minister’s remarks align with Romania’s broader strategic priorities under the Bolojan government, which has committed to bolstering the nation’s defence capabilities. Moșteanu reaffirmed plans to increase Romania’s defence budget and accelerate military modernisation, underscoring that a free and secure Ukraine is integral to Romania’s safety. “If Putin’s aggression continues unchecked, severe economic sanctions must follow,” he added, endorsing punitive measures against Russia.

The US decision, detailed by President Trump in a press briefing, stems from growing frustration with Russian President Vladimir Putin’s relentless bombing of Ukrainian cities. Trump confirmed that “top-tier” equipment, including Patriot systems, would soon reach Ukraine. He also issued a stark warning to Moscow, threatening 100% tariffs on Russian trade if a ceasefire is not achieved within 50 days, though trade between the US and Russia is already minimal, rendering the threat largely symbolic.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky responded swiftly, expressing gratitude for the US commitment. In a video address, he said, “I am deeply thankful to President Trump for his resolve to protect Ukrainian lives.” The sentiment reflects Kyiv’s urgent need for advanced defensive systems amid escalating Russian attacks.

This development follows a high-level video call on 11 July 2025, involving Romanian President Klaus Iohannis and key allies, where discussions focused on coordinating support for Ukraine. According to Reuters, the agreement between Washington and the European Union on weapon supplies was finalised during Monday’s meeting with Rutte, reinforcing NATO’s unified stance.

Romania’s firm backing of Ukraine underscores its strategic position as a NATO member on the alliance’s eastern flank. Moșteanu’s comments reflect a broader consensus among conservative-leaning governments in Eastern Europe, which view Russia’s actions as a direct threat to regional stability. The Bolojan administration’s push for military reform and increased defence spending further signals Romania’s intent to strengthen its role within NATO while countering Russian influence.

As the conflict in Ukraine grinds on, Romania's alignment with Western efforts to arm Kyiv highlights the broader geopolitical stakes. With Russia showing no signs of de-escalation, the delivery of advanced weaponry could prove pivotal in bolstering Ukraine's resilience and, by extension, Europe's security.