

Amid U.S. uncertainty and Russian bluffs, peace depends on European countries' resolve in supporting Ukraine

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Today's **international debate**, marked by the **Shenzhen summit** between Trump, Xi Jinping and Vladimir Putin, has revived fears of an alleged **"new Yalta"** through which the Kremlin seeks to suggest that Europe's fate is decided by the superpowers. However, this notion **should not frighten anyone**, and no pro-Putin European can seriously believe that our future will be decided by others.

The facts on the ground and the opening of negotiations

Behind the renewed debate over the **European security architecture** lies, rather, a genuine willingness to finally open **negotiations on the war in Ukraine**. Russia is raising the stakes with threats and demands to roll back NATO's borders, while Trump's envoys float speculative *ballon d'essai*.

If this **window for negotiations** has opened despite the relationship between Trump and Putin, it is solely due to **Ukrainian resistance** and the **resolve** with which that resistance has been supported by Europeans. The harsh reality on the battlefield — with Russia having already suffered **450,000 dead** and having understood the risks of blindly betting on a prolonged conflict — combined with U.S. domestic political deadlines (such as the **midterm elections**, which limit the scope for unconditional favor toward Putin), has pushed Moscow to reconsider its positions.

Europe and Italy’s central role

Europe has shown that it has **nothing to fear** and much to gain from a greater awareness of its own strength. The **European Council in Dublin** reaffirmed its full support for Ukraine and found a solution regarding the delegation that will take part in the negotiating table: a contingent of **seven European experts**, more credible than other actors around the table.
A **serious negotiation** cannot take place without Europeans. The lesson is clear for the political debate: those who have argued in the past that the European Union preferred weapons to negotiations, or who claim that Russia’s security should be the priority (risking endorsing the Kremlin’s narrative about NATO expansion rather than the freedom of Eastern European countries), have the wrong perspective.

Conclusion: strength, consistency and continuity

The fundamental truth to emerge in recent days is that Europeans can glimpse a **space for negotiation** and have a say only because they have supported Ukraine. They will be able to end the war and guarantee the security of the entire Continent — Russia included — **only if they continue to support it** from a position of absolute **strength, resolve and institutional credibility**.