



Berlin's Colossal Rearmament and French Fears: How Germany's Zeitenwende Redefines the Balance of Power in Europe

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The debate on Germany's rearmament (*Zeitenwende*) continues to create profound shockwaves within the geopolitical equilibrium of the European continent. In continuity with the historically conducted analyses on [pages of brigatafolgore.net](https://brigatafolgore.net)—always attentive to the transformations of military instruments, operational doctrines, and power relations between States—the German question no longer represents a mere budget adjustment, but a genuine redefinition of the European Union's security architecture.

Recent economic and military projections highlight a growing gap between Paris's ambitions and the financial power deployed by Berlin, a gap that challenges France's traditional strategic leadership within the Union.

A recent article published by German newspaper *Die Welt* highlights the alarm expressed by French military and diplomatic leaders in the face of Germany's vertiginous rise in military spending and the geopolitical consequences of this imbalance.



Germany as a Shield: Berlin Takes the Lead in European Defense

The *Die Welt* Dossier: Is France at Risk of Being Eclipsed?

According to the *Die Welt* article, the Chief of Staff of French armed forces, General Fabien Mandon, issued a stern warning during a Senate hearing. The economic data outlines a clear scenario: while France moves toward the target of 76.3 billion euros by 2030 (a doubling from the past, though hampered by an extremely critical national budget situation), Berlin intends to increase its defense budget (Wehretat) from 46.9 billion euros in 2021 to **162.9 billion euros by 2029**.

General Mandon underscored without mincing words: "Wir laufen Gefahr, abgehängt zu werden" (*We run the risk of being left behind*). If Germany maintains this pace of investment, the argument that has so far been central to France—namely possession of vast operational experience and consolidated military culture—risks no longer being sufficient to maintain continental leadership.

Operational Implications and Financial Projections

The investment gap concerns not only pure numbers, but structural capacity for power projection. Excluding costs for nuclear deterrence and foreign intervention capabilities, the article highlights that Germans plan to spend annually **three times more than France**. Over a

five-year time horizon, the difference in capacity will be disruptive.

This dynamic generates strong internal political tensions in France, where populist movements, both from the right (Marine Le Pen) and the left (Jean-Luc Mélenchon), capitalize on general discontent, even challenging NATO architecture and joint industrial projects like the FCAS.



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The Italian Perspective: Military Spending and Commitments Toward 2030

In this scenario of profound redefinition of Europe's military pillar, Italy moves along complex coordinates toward the 2030 target. Historically constrained by limited public budget margins and elevated debt, Italian Defense has undertaken a path of gradual alignment with NATO standards, resolutely aiming at achieving the 2% of GDP target.

National appropriations for the Defense budget show a trend of steady growth, oriented not only at replenishing current supplies, but at technological thrust and renewal of strategic platforms (from new-generation naval programs to air and ground components, including international cooperation programs such as GCAP for the sixth-generation fighter). However, the acceleration impressed by Berlin risks altering traditional power relations also for Rome, called to balance participation in major European industrial programs with internal financial sustainability, confirming Italy's role as a fundamental pivot in the enlarged Mediterranean but inevitably exposed to the pressures of a German and European pillar in very strong expansion.

Conclusions for the Strategic Observatory

German rearmament, analyzed through the lens of contemporary military doctrine, marks the end of an era of strategic moderation. As already highlighted in previous reviews, a State's ability to translate its industrial power into effective military spending redefines hierarchical relations within alliances, imposing on both Paris and Rome a profound reflection on their own geopolitical and industrial positioning in the coming decade.