



Bulgaria Freezes the Coalition of the Willing – No Military Support to Ukraine.

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Paris/Sofia – The Bulgarian Prime Minister, guest of honor of Macron for July 14th, draws a clear line: “We will not participate in military support to Ukraine. The solution is not weapons, but diplomacy.” July 14th, a day that celebrates the spirit of the French Republic, becomes the stage for a significant diplomatic rupture. In the heart of Paris, Bulgarian Prime Minister Rumen Radev has chosen to mark a clear and unequivocal distance from the line adopted by much of the West and the main European partners.

The news, bouncing from Paris, is one that shakes community balances: Bulgaria will not be part of the “Coalition of the Willing,” the group of nations that has made the constant supply of financial and military aid to Kyiv the cornerstone of its strategy in the Russian-Ukrainian conflict.

Radev's Choice: Diplomacy Against Escalation

The invitation to join the coalition, received directly from French President Emmanuel Macron, found a closed door. Radev's words leave no room for interpretation: *"Bulgaria's place is not there."*

The reason given by the Bulgarian leader goes straight to the heart of the current geopolitical debate: for Sofia, the approach based on military enhancement is failing the primary goal, namely the end of hostilities.

"The solution to this conflict does not lie in its continuation with military means, but in a strong diplomatic initiative that ends the escalation as soon as possible," Radev declared.



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Collective Security: “Rules Must Be Respected”

The Bulgarian Prime Minister also firmly denied the possibility of joining new blocks or partial initiatives, such as the one promoted by Ukraine and nine other European countries for the creation of a shared defense shield against Russian ballistic missiles.

Radev reaffirms the primacy of existing supranational institutions: *"All decisions concerning our collective security are made in a different format and place. Decisions are made within the EU and NATO, where Bulgaria has weight and an active presence."*

A Signal for Europe

With this move, Radev does not merely decline an invitation but raises a question of method and substance. At a time when the European Union seeks increasingly stringent unity of intent, Bulgaria's position – a member country choosing not to align with the policy of “willing” outside the treaties – sounds like a warning.

Bulgaria, while remaining firmly anchored to Euro-Atlantic alliances, claims its own autonomy of judgment, positioning itself as a voice out of the chorus that urgently asks to shift the conflict's focus from battlefields to negotiation tables. It remains to be seen how European chancelleries will react to this explicit will of Sofia not to yield to the logic of militarizing the conflict.