

London-Paris Axis Against Moscow: Green Light for Local Storm Shadow Production in Ukraine

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The European response to recent threats and warnings from Russian Foreign Minister Sergej Lavrov and the Kremlin did not take long. With a strategic move intended to shift the balance of the conflict, the United Kingdom and France move to a new phase of direct military cooperation with Kyiv.

London's Breakthrough: Projects and Assembly Lines in the Field

During his first official visit to Ukraine, British Prime Minister **Andy Burnham** formalized authorization for sharing classified project details of the long-range **Storm Shadow** missile (also known in its French version as SCALP).

Thanks to this decision, **the United Kingdom and France** will allow the launch of assembly lines directly on Ukrainian territory. The measure guarantees crucial advantages:

- **Logistical autonomy:** Reduction of resupply times and dependence on foreign transport.
- **Strategic resilience:** Decentralization of production to make it less vulnerable to Russian raids.
- **Unconditional support:** A reiterated "100%" proximity from the British government standing alongside Kyiv.

Storm Shadow and SCALP: Millimeter Precision and Deep Penetration

From a technical-military perspective, the Storm Shadow (renamed SCALP in France) is a low-observable deep-attack cruise missile designed to evade advanced air defenses by flying at extremely low altitude thanks to a constant-altitude terrain-following flight profile. Equipped with a sophisticated navigation system combining inertial, GPS, and terrain recognition-based navigation (TERPROM) along with an infrared seeker (IIR) with image matching in the terminal phase, the missile guarantees millimeter-precision accuracy on target even in environments heavily disrupted by electronic warfare. Its deadly multistage BROACH warhead (Bomb Royal Ordnance Augmented Charge) is specifically designed to penetrate underground bunkers, fortified command centers, logistics depots, and heavily protected critical infrastructure, characteristics that make it one of the most feared and disruptive conventional assets in the Ukrainian arsenal.



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The Coordinated Response to Moscow's Intimidation

London and Paris's move comes as a direct response to Moscow's hardline stance. For its part, Russia's chief diplomat **Sergej Lavrov** has repeatedly stressed the unacceptability of further massive supplies of advanced weapons to Kyiv, calling Western interference illegitimate and warning that any increase in Ukrainian offensive capability will receive a severe reaction. Along the same lines, the Kremlin has raised the stakes by defining the involvement of London and Paris as obvious active participation in the conflict, explicitly threatening that Russian armed forces will identify and strike missile assembly sites on Ukrainian soil.

Facing these pressures, European powers choose to raise the stakes, providing Kyiv not only with weapons, but with the autonomous industrial capacity to defend itself and strike at long range. This Franco-British synergy demonstrates that Western deterrence is now moving directly onto Ukrainian soil, securing European defense industrial cooperation.

Sources:

The Guardian / Financial Times: Official coverage of British Prime Minister Andy Burnham's first visit to Kyiv and details regarding the release of declassified long-range missile projects (Storm Shadow / SCALP) for the launch of local production in Ukraine.

Interfax News Agency / Official Kremlin Statements: Responses and accusations from spokesperson Dmitry Peskov and diplomacy led by Sergej Lavrov, who defined the Anglo-French green light as a further dangerous escalation ("throwing fuel on the fire") and promised a harsh

reaction against any production sites on Ukrainian soil.

British Government Communications (Downing Street): Official notes regarding "100%" support alongside Kyiv and details on the technical aspects of defense industrial cooperation between the United Kingdom, France, and Ukraine.

Italian Defense Magazine (RID) / Specialized Military Analysis: Technical specifications and in-depth analysis on the operational characteristics, deep penetration, and autonomous guidance of Storm Shadow / SCALP cruise missiles.