



Sharp Cut: The US Withdraws from Eastern Europe

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The United States has officially begun reducing its military presence in Eastern Europe. The Pentagon announced that it will not replace the rotation of a brigade based in Romania with elements deployed in Bulgaria, Hungary, and Slovakia. The decision, coming directly from the White House, will result in the withdrawal of about 800 troops from the bases of Mihail Kogălniceanu, Deveselu, and Câmpia-Turzi, leaving about a thousand US soldiers still on Romanian territory.

Washington clarifies that this is not a “withdrawal” but an «adjustment of force posture», emphasizing that the commitment to NATO and Article 5 remains intact. The Atlantic Alliance also reiterated that, despite this reshuffling, the American presence in Europe is more substantial today than it was before 2022.

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The US Looks Elsewhere: The Priority is China

Behind the decision is the strategic redefinition of American defense policy. Donald Trump, back in the White House, continues a line already traced by Obama and Biden: **fewer stationed troops in Europe and more focus on the Indo-Pacific theater**, where the long-term challenge with China is unfolding.

The reduction of troops in Eastern Europe is part of a broader strategy: transferring part of the security burden to European allies and reducing direct American involvement in “non-vital” conflicts and fronts. Support for Kiev is also shifting towards greater financial and operational involvement of the European Union.

Europe Takes Note: “We Will Have to Defend Ourselves”

Reactions in Europe are cautious but aware. Italian Defense Minister Guido Crosetto spoke of “necessary realism”: «**The American disengagement did not start today**. The United States is thinking about the confrontation with China, and Europe will have to learn to defend itself. It will take ten years to build a true autonomous defense capability, but the path is now irreversible».

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A similar message came from the European Commission: not surprise, but determination to strengthen the Union’s eastern flank and the approximately 3,000 kilometers of border under observation. The goal is to accelerate the path of rearmament and common coordination, with the commitment – already made at the June NATO summit – to raise military spending to 5% of GDP by 2035.

For Europe, and for Italy in particular, a new phase is opening. **The United States is not withdrawing, but changing roles**: from absolute guarantors of security to strategic partners who demand reciprocity. American protection is no longer automatic. **Europe, if it wants to count, will finally have to learn to walk on its own.**

News link: <https://apnews.com/article/nato-eastern-flank-us-troops-drawdown-russia-40a1c731a866ce84d5c7721fe12c380e>