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Europe's Plan to End Ukraine War Faces Political Hurdles



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European leaders met in London to discuss a plan aimed at ending the war in Ukraine. Britain and France have spearheaded efforts to establish a “coalition of the willing,” rallying support for a peace agreement with Ukraine and Russia. However, the real test for Europe lies in how many countries will join the coalition, and whether Russia will accept such a proposal.

Prime Minister Keir Starmer of Britain remained hopeful that several nations would contribute, despite acknowledging that not all countries might be able to participate. His goal is to signal to President Trump that Europe is ready to “do the heavy lifting” to secure peace. Analysts point out that drawing the U.S. back into the peace process is crucial, as President Trump appears determined to strike a deal directly with Russian President Vladimir Putin, bypassing Europe and Ukraine.

The coalition would provide continued military aid to Ukraine, secure a seat for Kyiv at peace talks, and assist in the country’s defense after any settlement. Countries like Denmark, the Netherlands, and Germany, which have supported Ukraine financially, are expected to participate, though political and economic obstacles may delay their commitment.

French President Emmanuel Macron emphasized that any peacekeeping force would be deployed only after a ceasefire is in place, which could take several weeks. Macron and other leaders stress the need for negotiations before any deployment of European troops.

Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni has expressed skepticism about the peacekeeping force, while Hungary's Prime Minister Viktor Orbán has blocked further EU support for Ukraine, highlighting the division within Europe. The situation is complicated further by Hungary's stance on Russia's frozen assets.

Even if Europe forms a strong coalition, it may not be enough to satisfy President Trump, who is set to discuss potential cuts to U.S. military aid to Ukraine.