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## Spain's PM: Boost in defense spending won't affect Welfare State



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MADRID, March 26, Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez reassured lawmakers on Wednesday that increasing defense spending will not come at the expense of social services or the country's Welfare State.

Addressing the Spanish Congress, Sanchez emphasized the urgent need for Europe to strengthen its defense capabilities, especially amid growing uncertainty over the United States' commitment to European security under a potential Trump presidency. He stressed that "global peace efforts are more necessary than ever" and called for stronger European leadership in defense and security.

"Europe currently lacks a unified defense and security policy," Sanchez said, advocating for the foundation of a European army with a common flag and shared interests. He highlighted the need for armed forces capable of addressing military and cyber threats, as well as security risks related to climate change.

"We are not preparing to attack any nation, but to defend our way of life," he affirmed, reiterating that bolstering security measures would not undermine Spain's Welfare State.

Sanchez also urged the U.S. to reconsider its stance on defense cooperation and trade tariffs, warning that Europe would not hesitate to respond strategically. "Europe is a global power and will act as such. We do not seek a trade war, but we will negotiate an intelligent, unified response," he concluded.