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## Europe, Ukraine insist Trump include Kyiv in Alaska diplomatic talks



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European leaders and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky are reinforcing a unified front ahead of U.S. President Donald Trump's upcoming summit with Russian President Vladimir Putin in Alaska. In a high-level virtual meeting, German Chancellor Friedrich Merz convened key Western allies and Zelensky to ensure that Ukraine remains central to all peace negotiations. Trump affirmed during the talks that Ukraine must be directly involved in any discussion

concerning its territory, marking a significant alignment between Washington, Kyiv, and Europe.

French President Emmanuel Macron noted that Trump appeared open to a ceasefire arrangement and a possible trilateral meeting involving Zelensky and Putin at a later stage. This position is seen as a positive step, especially after earlier concerns that Trump might agree to a territorial compromise without Ukraine's consent.

Trump also warned that there would be "very severe consequences" if Russia failed to pursue peace in Ukraine, underscoring the urgency of the upcoming discussions.

European officials remain cautious, however, wary of any rushed deal that could sideline Kyiv in favor of a swift U.S.-Russia agreement. Berlin's leadership in organizing the calls highlights Europe's determination to safeguard Ukrainian sovereignty and ensure transparency in the peace process.

As the Alaska summit approaches, transatlantic leaders are working to set clear red lines and guarantee Ukraine's presence at the negotiating table. For many, this is not just about ending the conflict but also about establishing a sustainable and fair framework for peace—one that does not sacrifice the principles of sovereignty and unity for short-term political gain.