

Norway Signals Strategic Shift Amid U.S. Policy Uncertainty



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OSLO, Feb. 12 — Norwegian Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Store has warned of growing uncertainty in relations with the United States, citing significant shifts in American foreign and trade policies under President Donald Trump.

Speaking before Norway's parliament, the Storting, in a security policy address, Store described

the current geopolitical climate as “highly demanding” for Norway. He pointed to increasing unpredictability in Washington’s approach, saying recent developments have altered long-standing transatlantic dynamics.

Ahead of attending the Munich Security Conference, the prime minister voiced concern over what he characterized as rhetorical attacks on Europe linked to the “MAGA movement’s” worldview.

He referenced remarks by President Trump directed at European allies as evidence of a more strained diplomatic environment.

Store also highlighted Washington’s move toward protectionist trade policies. He noted that while the United States had historically championed rules-based international trade, it is now relying more heavily on tariffs, sometimes using them as leverage in broader political negotiations — even with close partners.

In addition, he expressed concern over the U.S. withdrawal from international cooperation frameworks, particularly in areas such as climate policy and global health, as well as increasing pressure on independent institutions and media.

In response, Store outlined a “hedging strategy” aimed at diversifying Norway’s security partnerships. He emphasized closer and more structured cooperation with Northern European countries to strengthen regional deterrence and collective security.

