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Rubio Tells Europe Reform Values or Risk Rift



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Munich: US Secretary of State Marco Rubio delivered a pointed message to European allies at the Munich Security Conference, urging a fundamental shift in policy priorities and values to sustain transatlantic unity.

While affirming that the United States and Europe remain historically and strategically

intertwined, Rubio said Washington expects allies to align more closely with American positions on cultural identity, border control, and climate policy. He stressed that rebuilding Western cohesion requires not only increased defense spending but also what he described as a broader “reform” of Europe’s political outlook.

European leaders had approached the conference amid strained relations following disputes over Ukraine policy and Greenland tensions. German Chancellor Friedrich Merz and French President Emmanuel Macron defended Europe’s independent political and regulatory approach, while Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky urged sustained support against Russia, highlighting the ongoing war’s human and infrastructure toll.

Rubio’s remarks echoed a tougher US strategic stance toward Europe that has gained prominence in Washington policy circles. Analysts said the positive reception from some European officials reflected concern over the deteriorating transatlantic relationship and uncertainty about US commitments.

The conference underscored widening gaps over defense funding, political direction, and Ukraine strategy, raising questions about the future balance within the Western alliance.