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Europe facing security 'perfect storm': EU defence chief

June 18, 2025 spacewar.com reported: "Europe is facing a 'perfect storm' on defence as it presses to rearm in the face of Russian aggression and doubts over US engagement, the EU's defence commissioner said Tuesday.

'Our readiness for defence is not sufficient. It demands an urgent ramp-up and a longer term strategy how to replace American capabilities in Europe,' commissioner Andrius Kubilius said.

'The forthcoming American withdrawal from Europe is a new reality.'

Kubilius said Europe needs to avoid an 'angry divorce' with Washington as US President Donald Trump's administration weighs shifting forces from the continent.

NATO countries look set to agree at a summit in the Hague later in the month to massively ramp up defence spending in a bid to keep Trump on side..."

Report: Iran poised to strike US bases after any attack

June 18, 2025 israelnationalnews.com reported: "Iran has reportedly prepared missiles and other military assets for potential strikes against US bases across the Middle East, signaling a significant escalation should the United States join Israel's ongoing conflict with the Islamic Republic, *The New York Times* reported on Tuesday.

According to intelligence reports reviewed by US officials, Tehran's preparations are a direct response to the prospect of American involvement. The United States has already deployed approximately three dozen refueling aircraft to Europe, assets that could support fighter jets protecting American bases or extend the range of bombers in any potential strike on Iranian nuclear facilities, noted *The New York Times*.

Concerns are particularly heightened regarding the Fordow nuclear facility, the report stated. Should the US participate in a strike on Fordow, American officials warn that Iranian-backed Houthi militias would 'almost certainly resume striking ships in the Red Sea,' while pro-Iranian militias in Iraq and Syria would likely target US bases. Further escalation could see Iran mining the Strait of Hormuz, a tactic aimed at trapping US warships in the Persian Gulf..."

A Battered Iran Signals It Wants to De-Escalate Hostilities with Israel and Negotiate

June 16, 2025 wsj.com reported: "Iran has been urgently signaling that it seeks an end to hostilities and resumption of talks over its nuclear programs, sending messages to Israel and the U.S. via Arab intermediaries, Middle Eastern and European officials said.

In the midst of a ferocious Israeli air campaign, Tehran has told Arab officials it would be open to returning to the negotiating table as long as the U.S. doesn't join the attack, the officials said. Iran also passed messages to Israel saying it is in the interest of both sides to keep the violence contained.

But with Israeli warplanes able to fly freely over the capital and Iranian counterattacks inflicting minimal damage, Israeli leaders have little incentive to halt their assault before doing more to destroy Iran's nuclear sites and further weaken the theocratic government's hold on power..."

Iraq's Hezbollah Brigades Threaten 'Great Satan' U.S. on Iran's Behalf

June 17, 2025 Breitbart.com reported: "Multiple Iraqi militias known to serve as proxies for the Iranian terror regime issued statements this weekend threatening the United States in response to the ongoing military campaign against Iranian leaders by the nation of Israel.

Among those issuing threats were the Hezbollah Brigades or Kata'ib Hezbollah (KH), which lost its leader Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis in an American airstrike in 2020, also eliminating one of Iran's most powerful terror masterminds, Qasem Soleimani. President Donald Trump ordered an airstrike on Soleimani, the head of the

Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) Quds Force, in January 2020 after Iran-backed militias in Iraq attacked America's embassy in Baghdad, leaving graffiti on the premises reading, 'Soleimani is our commander.'

'Duty requires the Iraqi government, the brothers in the Coordination Framework, and the sincere leaders to bear responsibility and take a courageous stance to prevent the expansion of the war zone,' KH said in a statement on Sunday, 'by closing the embassy of the great Satan [US] and expelling the American occupation forces from the country.'

The KH statement reportedly added that it would attack American military bases and other stops in the region if it considered that America had 'intervened' in the conflict..."

Son of late shah urges Iranians to break with Islamic republic

June 16, 2025 spacewar.com reported: "The son of Iran's late shah appealed Friday to the country's security forces to abandon the cleric-run state, voicing hope for toppling the Islamic republic after Israel launched military strikes. Reza Pahlavi blamed Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei for having 'dragged Iran into a war' with Israel and described the government in Tehran as 'weak and divided.'

'It could fall. As I have told my compatriots: Iran is yours and yours to reclaim. I am with you. Stay strong and we will win,' he said in a statement.

'I have told the military, police, and security forces: break from the regime. Honor the oath of any honorable serviceman. Join the people.'

'To the international community: do not throw yet another lifeline to this dying, terrorist regime,' he said. Pahlavi was crown prince in Iran's pro-Western monarchy, which collapsed in 1979 in a mass revolution that quickly brought to power the clerical establishment that declared an Islamic republic..."



Reza Pahlavi
Crown Prince of Iran

Israel destroyed a third of Iran's ballistic missile launchers, IDF says

June 16, 2025 jpost.com reported: "IDF Chief Spokesman Brig.-Gen. Effie Defrin on Monday announced that the air force has destroyed a third of Iran's ballistic missile launchers, 120 in total. Each launcher could have fired dozens of missiles over the course of the current war. The Islamic Republic was only able to fire around half of the missiles it had intended to fire overnight, said Defrin.

This means that for the rest of the war, Iran's ability to launch more missiles at once will be reduced by at least a third, if not more, given that during the overnight attack, Tehran's firing capability was reduced by around half..."

Pakistan vows to 'stand behind' Iran, calls for Muslim unity against Israel

June 14, 2025 middleastmonitor.com reported: "Pakistan on Saturday vowed to "stand behind Iran" and called for Muslim unity against Israel after attacks on Iran, *Anadolu reports*. Speaking at the National Assembly, Pakistan Defense Minister Khwaja Asif said that Muslim nations should now launch an initiative to show unity against Israel.

"Israel has targeted Iran, Yemen, and Palestine. If Muslim nations don't unite now, each will face the same fate," he said. He urged the Muslim countries, who have diplomatic ties with Israel, to immediately cut ties and said the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) should convene to formulate a joint strategy. Asif said that Pakistan has deep ties with Iran and Islamabad stands by Tehran in this difficult time. "We stand behind Iran and will support them at every international forum to protect their interest," the defense minister said..."



Pakistan Defense Minister
Khwaja Asif