

After French President Emmanuel Macron declared NATO “brain dead,” Germany’s top diplomat Heiko Maas and Chancellor Angela Merkel praised the US-led alliance. “It would be a mistake to undermine NATO,” Maas said.

European NATO members should take on more responsibility — but the alliance is still indispensable to Europe’s security, Germany’s Foreign Minister Heiko Maas and Chancellor Angela Merkel said on Sunday.

Their comments, published separately, come in response to a [controversial interview given by French President Emmanuel Macron](#) earlier this week, in which he lamented that US leadership caused the “brain death” of NATO, and criticized the alliance’s lack of coordination. Macron urged European allies to “wake up” to the new reality of the US with Donald Trump at the helm.

German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas, however, said it would be a mistake to undermine NATO.

“Without the United States, neither Germany nor Europe will be able to effectively protect themselves,” he wrote in a column for *Der Spiegel* magazine.

### **Europe cannot be NATO’s ‘replacement’**

Maas said Macron was right to focus on building a strong and sovereign Europe and admitted that European countries needed to cooperate better and take on more responsibility for their own security. However, Maas added that Europe would still need NATO for many years to come.

“And if Europe is one day capable of ensuring its own security, we should still ‘want’ NATO,” Maas wrote.

“Yes, we want a strong and sovereign Europe, but we need it as part of a strong NATO and not as its replacement,” the minister wrote.

### **Merkel hints at more military spending**

On Friday, [Merkel commented that Macron used “rather drastic words”](#) to express his

position on the US-led military alliance. In her regular Sunday podcast, Merkel described NATO as “indispensable” and “the central pillar of our defence.”

The chancellor, too, said European NATO members should take more responsibility.

“This means that we should bring this European section of NATO stronger together,” Merkel said.

The German leader also praised joint defence projects between France and Germany, including developing fighter jets and tanks. At the same time, Merkel said the German army needed “adequate financial resources” to meet current challenges.

## Macron heads to Berlin

In his column for *Der Spiegel*, Maas once again pitched the idea of a European security council, previously floated by Merkel and Defense Minister Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauer.

Currently, the EU demands unanimous consent from all member states on issues such as security. The security council model would see a rotating group of member states make key decisions, presumably making it easier to take action.

While the future of the initiative remains unclear, Maas said he was working closely on the idea with his [French counterpart, Jean-Yves Le Drian](#). The UK, which is on its way out of the EU, should still be involved in the mechanism, Maas said.

The issue of NATO is likely to be discussed during Macron's visit to Germany on Sunday, where he is set to meet German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier and Merkel.

## Subscribe to the International Relations Updates by The Kootneeti

\* indicates required

Full Name

Email Address \*

Subscribe

made with  mailchimp



**CERTIFICATE COURSE IN  
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**

SIX-WEEK ONLINE COURSE IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS  
BY THE KOOTNEETI

**JOIN TODAY!**

 [team@thekootneeti.com](mailto:team@thekootneeti.com)  
 [courses.thekootneeti.in](https://courses.thekootneeti.in)  
 (+91) 120 4565994

*The views and opinions expressed in this article are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of The Kootneeti Team*

Facebook Comments