
VON DER LEYEN PRAISES BULGARIA'S SUPPORT FOR UKRAINE WHILE VISIT SPARKS PROTESTS

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European Commission President Ursula von der Leyens recent visit to Bulgaria underscores the countrys rising importance in Europes collective defense, particularly amid the ongoing war in Ukraine. At the VMZ-Sopot ordnance plant, one of Bulgarias longstanding defense facilities, von der Leyen highlighted the nations pivotal contributions to Ukrainian security and outlined plans for deeper integration into E.U. defense structures.

Von der Leyen reminded delegates that roughly one-third of Ukraines weapons at the beginning of Russias invasion came from Bulgaria, demonstrating Bulgarias key role in regional defense. I want to thank Bulgaria for this extraordinary contribution in defense of its neighbor and friend, Ukraine, she said, stressing that Moscows aggression can only be restrained through coordinated military capacity

Prime Minister Zhelyazkov reinforced the message, highlighting Bulgarias commitment to supporting allied operations in the Black Sea, from mine-clearing missions to providing critical airport infrastructure for NATO forces. These actions, he noted, would be undertaken within the framework approved by Bulgarias National Assembly, highlighting the countrys commitment to both national and collective European security.

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