

WEBVTT

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<v SPEAKER\_1>In this episode of Defence Deconstructed, which we recorded on September, we partnered with Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung and Dr.

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<v SPEAKER\_1>Bernd Althusmann to sit down with he and the member of the German Bundestag, Thomas Röwekamp.

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<v SPEAKER\_1>We discussed Germany's defence procurement, budget trajectory, potential industrial policy directions, including some perspective on Canada as well, and the combined effect on military readiness and the ability for German and Canadian defence relations to continue progressing in the future.

00:00:39.283 --> 00:00:40.783

<v SPEAKER\_2>Yeah, welcome, everyone.

00:00:40.783 --> 00:00:41.643

<v SPEAKER\_2>I'm Bernd Althusmann.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>I'm the Director of KAS Canada in Ottawa since November 2024.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>And in this episode, we welcome Dr.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>Perry from CGAI, previous guest in our podcast and member of the German Bundestag, Thomas Röwekamp.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>I know him very well.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>He is a member of the German Bundestag since many years now, and he has a rich history in politics in Germany, where he was a member of Bremerhaven City as far as I am informed, City Council from 1987 to 1991, and state chairman of the Christian Democrats of Bremen from 2008 to 2011, and chairman of the CDU parliamentary group in Bremen Parliament from 2007 to 2021.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>Currently, he is the member of the German Bundestag and chairman of the Defence Committee.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>In uncertain times, from my point of view, the key core committee of the German Bundestag beneath may be budget and finance.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>Today we will talk about mostly the defence procurement questions, the budget constraints, the potential industrial policy directions and their effect on military readiness.

00:02:03.203 --> 00:02:11.523

<v SPEAKER\_2>Would each of the guests like to introduce themselves as, well, maybe better than me, please?

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<v SPEAKER\_2>Would you start maybe first, a member of the German Bundestag as the guest from Germany?

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<v SPEAKER\_2>German Bundestag is in session today and they discussed also today, as far as I'm informed, the issue of Poland.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>But we will come back to this.

00:02:30.163 --> 00:02:31.803

<v SPEAKER\_2>Maybe Thomas, you will start.

00:02:32.123 --> 00:02:35.443

<v SPEAKER\_3>Yes, you mentioned them, most details of my life.

00:02:35.443 --> 00:02:38.503

<v SPEAKER\_3>So in my civil life, I'm a lawyer and notary.

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<v SPEAKER\_3>I'm 58 years old and married and I do have three, I would say, adult children at the age of 28, 25 and 22 years old.

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<v SPEAKER\_3>So yes, I'm very interested in debate on security and stability, especially in the current situation.

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<v SPEAKER\_3>I'm chair of the Defence Committee and we already had a session today, discussed the actual situation on the east flank, especially the Poen question of this morning.

00:03:08.143 --> 00:03:09.603

<v SPEAKER\_3>So I'm very happy to be here.

00:03:09.603 --> 00:03:10.283

<v SPEAKER\_3>Thank you.

00:03:10.283 --> 00:03:11.303

<v SPEAKER\_2>David.

00:03:11.303 --> 00:03:12.163

<v SPEAKER\_1>I'm Dave Perry.

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<v SPEAKER\_1>I'm the president and CEO of the Canadian Global Affairs Institute.

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<v SPEAKER\_1>We're a Canadian International Affairs think tank that covers a broad range of Canada's international policies, including defence and foreign relations.

00:03:22.183 --> 00:03:29.583

<v SPEAKER\_1>So transatlantic relations, links with NATO and key allies across the Atlantic Ocean like Germany are a core part of our interests.

00:03:30.163 --> 00:03:34.463

<v SPEAKER\_1>I'm very happy to be on the podcast again and to join our German guest.

00:03:34.463 --> 00:03:45.903

<v SPEAKER\_1>In my personal background, my research and my doctoral studies focused on Canadian defence procurement budget issues in particular, and I follow those issues with interest, as well as Germany's plans for the same.

00:03:45.903 --> 00:03:47.463

<v SPEAKER\_2>Thank you very much, David.

00:03:47.463 --> 00:03:58.143

<v SPEAKER\_2>You remember we met by accident at the elevator and discussed it, how to react together, CGAI and Konrad Adenauer Foundation office.

00:03:58.623 --> 00:04:12.403

<v SPEAKER\_2>We are nearly neighbours and therefore we discussed the possibility to invite high-ranking politicians from Germany into such a discussion into this podcast today.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>Thank you for your introduction with announcement of recent 5% investment commitment within NATO and defence policies.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>The focus within Canada and in the world has shifted into integration policies.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>I would like to ask you both your ideas on specifically industry focus.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>How important is domestic industry in Canada and Germany and Europe to each country's procurement?

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<v SPEAKER\_2>Do you think Germany prioritizes European supply is more than Canada prioritizes North American ones?

00:04:50.963 --> 00:05:00.383

<v SPEAKER\_2>I think again the first question to the estimate member of the German Bundestag, Thomas.

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<v SPEAKER\_3>Yes, thank you very much for the question.

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<v SPEAKER\_3>It takes regard to our actual discussion.

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<v SPEAKER\_3>We are doing every day in the committee as well as in the parliament in Itzhou.

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<v SPEAKER\_3>So domestic industry does indeed play a central role in the country's defense capability, not just in terms of secure supply chains, but also in order to ensure technological sovereignty and long-term innovation potential.

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<v SPEAKER\_3>That is what we can do very good in Germany, I think, is the work of engineers.

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<v SPEAKER\_3>For Germany and I think for Europe as a whole, the historical shift in policy, or as we call it in Germany, the Zeitmänner means that we not only need to invest more, but also to invest more strategically.

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<v SPEAKER\_3>Here it is clear that the European defense industry needs to be bolstered, not for protectionist reasons, but because of high-performing, reliable and interoperable industrial base, is a security policy requirement.

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<v SPEAKER\_3>And at the same time, as a member of NATO, Germany has an obligation to develop capabilities to contribute to collective defense.

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<v SPEAKER\_3>And that means cooperating with partners on both sides of the Atlantic.

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<v SPEAKER\_3>We opt for European providers, where it makes technological sense and is strategically necessary.

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<v SPEAKER\_3>But we are certainly not ruling our transatlantic procurement.

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<v SPEAKER\_3>A good example in the purchase is the F-35, a conscious decision in favor of capabilities and alliance interoperability.

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<v SPEAKER\_3>So I think there is no single general answer to the question of whether Germany prioritizes European supplies more than Canada does, not North American ones.

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<v SPEAKER\_3>Geographically, historically, and structurally, Canada is more integrated into North American supply chains.

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<v SPEAKER\_3>For starters, simply because of its proximity to the United States, Germany, on the other hand, is a driving force behind the European Defence Corporation.

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<v SPEAKER\_3>For instance, through projects like the Future Combat Air System or the Eurofighter program, this of course comes through in procurement decisions as well.

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<v SPEAKER\_3>So, what matters at the end is that we work together, and we are able to build together the capabilities we need coming in within the NATO.

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<v SPEAKER\_3>And we have to develop a strong, reliable, and technologically cutting-edge defence system.

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<v SPEAKER\_3>We can be part of this.

00:07:47.403 --> 00:07:54.263  
<v SPEAKER\_3>Our industry can deliver part of it, but we are not able to do it by our own.

00:07:54.263 --> 00:08:04.463  
<v SPEAKER\_3>And for this, we need both transatlantic and European solutions, with sound judgement, strategic foresight and industry-based reason, I think.

00:08:04.463 --> 00:08:06.223  
<v SPEAKER\_2>Thank you very much, Thomas.

00:08:06.223 --> 00:08:20.143  
<v SPEAKER\_2>Before David starts with his question to the member of the German Bundestag, Thomas Röwekamp, what do you think, David, about the 5% goal of Canada?

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<v SPEAKER\_2>They committed in June before the summit of NATO in The Hague that Canada will also reach this 5% goal of NATO in between the next years.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>It's a part of budget challenge for Canada to reach it out because former government, Justin Trudeau, said, we will reach it not before 2032 or 2031.

00:08:48.863 --> 00:08:51.563  
<v SPEAKER\_2>And now a Canadian budget will be stressed.

00:08:52.163 --> 00:08:59.223  
<v SPEAKER\_2>It is announced that Canada will now reach this aim as fast as they can.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>But my point is, is it realistic?

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<v SPEAKER\_2>And the question, how fast can Canada reach that aim?

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<v SPEAKER\_2>What do you think?

00:09:10.083 --> 00:09:11.103  
<v SPEAKER\_2>What is realistic?

00:09:11.103 --> 00:09:32.703

<v SPEAKER\_1>So both the 2% and the 5% target for Canada are very ambitious and are going to require a massive increase in spending really consequential changes to the administration of our defence apparatus here because you are talking about a couple of fold increases in the output of Canadian defence in a very short period of time.

00:09:32.703 --> 00:09:43.883

<v SPEAKER\_1>And that is part of what I was interested in hearing from the German colleagues here because what your previous Chancellor had announced was a far more ambitious pace of increased investment than I thought was possible in Canada.

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<v SPEAKER\_1>But Prime Minister Carney is willing to challenge my scepticism about what is possible in Canada because he's committed to meet the 2% spending metric by the end of this fiscal year, which means that he has to hit it by the 31st of March 2026.

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<v SPEAKER\_1>And he only became Prime Minister and effectively got into office after the start effectively of the Canadian fiscal year in April.

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<v SPEAKER\_1>So he's trying to increase spending over and above what was already a very aggressive by Canadian standards pace of spending increase with a lot of big complicated procurements.

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<v SPEAKER\_1>And he's trying to do that in less than a 12-month time frame to commit and spend another \$9 billion, which from Canadian context is over prior year spending of about \$34 billion, which tops up some additional increases.

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<v SPEAKER\_1>So very ambitious.

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<v SPEAKER\_1>And that's why I'm keen to hear what our German colleagues are doing to try and do something, which my reams seem to be sort of similar.

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<v SPEAKER\_1>On your comment about some of the integration issues, I think from a Canadian perspective, there's a couple of things.

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<v SPEAKER\_1>We're going to have to do things quite differently, as I outlined, just to increase the rate of spending to hit that target,

because we were previously spending about 1.3, 1.4% of GDP on defence.

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<v SPEAKER\_1>We had plans a year and a half ago to get to 1.76, but we did not actually have a proven track record to that point in time that we would get there.

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<v SPEAKER\_1>So we have a long way to go very quickly.

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<v SPEAKER\_1>On top of that, I think the unique consideration in Canada is that the second Trump presidency has introduced a number of different challenges to Canada, political and economic.

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<v SPEAKER\_1>The tariff regime that the Trump administration has brought in has really put a significant economic and therefore political pressure on the government, particularly in our manufacturing sectors and in part because of that, the Carney government has made in Canada what has been an extraordinarily unusual dating back multiple decades commitment to try and invest in the Canadian defence industry and articulate for the first time a Canadian defence industrial strategy, which is something that this country has not actually fulsomely had before ever.

00:11:52.863 --> 00:11:53.243

<v SPEAKER\_1>And Mr.

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<v SPEAKER\_1>Carney has not only committed to do that, but he has done so repeatedly in all of his major speeches, which is a complete change of tone and approach from his immediate predecessor.

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<v SPEAKER\_1>And part of what he's trying to do there, just to touch into the links about where supply chains come from, there's a concern about over-reliance on the United States as well as considerations about how reliable the United States will be as the traditional closest partner that Canada has had militarily and otherwise.

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<v SPEAKER\_1>And Mr.

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<v SPEAKER\_1>Carney has explicitly expressed a desire to broaden out the supply chains by both diversifying some of those links with Europe.

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<v SPEAKER\_1>And he's mentioned quite enthusiastically the possibilities with the European Union, Rearm Europe safe, as well as buying more from inside Canada.

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<v SPEAKER\_1>So that would be how I would situate all of that.

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<v SPEAKER\_1>And if I could, to bring it back to the conversation that precipitated this when we ran into each other outside of the elevator, I am very interested to hear from a German colleague, Chancellor Stoltz, committed to a very significant defence spending increase, huge sums of money by at least a Canadian standard, in a very quick time frame.

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<v SPEAKER\_1>And I understand that there is new budget procedures being discussed in Germany right now about what I presume is some of the implementation of that.

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<v SPEAKER\_1>And I am very interested to hear how all of that ambitious agenda is unfolding.

00:13:14.923 --> 00:13:17.503

<v SPEAKER\_3>Yes, thank you very much for the question.

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<v SPEAKER\_3>Yes, I think in the belief of everlasting peace, Germany was not able to fulfill the NATO goal in the past.

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<v SPEAKER\_3>And the Russian war on Ukraine changed the minds of many people who believed in the everlasting peace.

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<v SPEAKER\_3>And so it was a very big challenge to reach the 2% goal of NATO.

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<v SPEAKER\_3>But we reached it in 2023.

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<v SPEAKER\_3>We gave the promise, which was essential for the success of the spring meeting of NATO, to fulfill the 5% goal in Germany as well.

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<v SPEAKER\_3>And the implementation of the Zeitmende is making a tangible process under Councillor Mertz, not only because of the ARC

Summit, but also within the Parliamentary discussions.

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<v SPEAKER\_3>The Defence budget for 2025, we will decide next week, we'll have about around 86 billion euros.

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<v SPEAKER\_3>This is higher than ever before.

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<v SPEAKER\_3>So it was a big challenge to reach that, but I think we will do that in the next week and we will have the debate about our budget for 2026.

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<v SPEAKER\_3>Also, we will start it in September and I think we will give the promise again that we will reach, we are on a good way to reach the NATO goal earlier than we had the debate of the Hague summit.

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<v SPEAKER\_3>So I think, yes, we are on a good way and I think this sends also a strong message to our partner within NATO.

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<v SPEAKER\_3>When Mark Rutte was here in our Defence Committee, he was very grateful about the German way and in his opinion, it was very necessary to stand together within NATO that Germany is leading the question of reaching the 5% goal.

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<v SPEAKER\_3>So what is clear on the Merz is a strategic ambition.

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<v SPEAKER\_3>The aim is for the Bundeswehr to become the strongest conventional army in Europe.

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<v SPEAKER\_3>This is a very high goal, I think, and we have to do a lot to reach this goal.

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<v SPEAKER\_3>But I think it is a very clear commitment to NATO, and it is a very clear commitment to our European partners in NATO as well.

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<v SPEAKER\_3>And that also means moving away from only short-term thinking that will not end in 2029, 2030 or something else.

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<v SPEAKER\_3>It is a long-term promise we gave to the NATO.

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<v SPEAKER\_3>And so it is also means a sustainable financial planning.

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<v SPEAKER\_3>And in addition to this defence budget, a new special fund for infrastructure, also for civil infrastructure, plays a role.

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<v SPEAKER\_3>This is relevant to security policy because as a logistical hub in Europe, and we are on the way from the sea to the East Flank, I think, it is, Germany plays a central role for NATO as a whole.

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<v SPEAKER\_3>So it is not just a matter of being equipped with our army, but also of being able to move troops and material quickly from one side of our land to the other one.

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<v SPEAKER\_3>And in a nutshell, the zeitminder, the historic policy shift is happening, I think, and it is financially backed at the moment for this year and the next year again.

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<v SPEAKER\_3>It is strategically focused, not only increasing our possibilities in army, and it is focused and with genuine will to shape the future.

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<v SPEAKER\_3>It is a mind change in Germany.

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<v SPEAKER\_3>That's my opinion.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>Thank you very much for the very detailed answers and opinions.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>I would also like to evaluate case study comparisons on the naval and fighter aircraft decisions.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>For example, Germany's submarine export success with its own Navy's equipment issues versus Canada's shipbuilding strategy and delays has a big gap.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>But also on NATO's deterrent side, Germany choose F-35s prior to Eurofighter decision.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>And in contrast, Canada went with CF-18 replacement, which has faced an extensive political limit.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>What does this reveal about each country's approach?

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<v SPEAKER\_2>What do you think, David?

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<v SPEAKER\_1>So I think I'll start just on a Canadian reflection.

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<v SPEAKER\_1>And I guess I'll just offer that I find it hard enough to understand how my own country's systems works, that I'm reluctant to make comparisons to other systems that I presume require a sufficiently comparable level of detail, that I'm a little hesitant to make the comparisons.

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<v SPEAKER\_1>I think comparing shipbuilding and the fighter aircraft projects here is a bit of a microcosm about why I think Mr.

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<v SPEAKER\_1>Carney is on to something intelligent when he's talking about creating a purposeful defence intelligence strategy and having a more purposeful articulation of what kind of defence production Canada would like to see domestically.

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<v SPEAKER\_1>The shipbuilding projects by and large, even though they have involved massive sums of money, have been consistently politically supported in part because the shipbuilding policy for surface ships is the most well-defined part of what would become a wider set of defence industrial strategies in Canada.

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<v SPEAKER\_1>We have had a decades-old policy that ships built for federal government purposes would be constructed in Canada.

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<v SPEAKER\_1>There have been some challenges about how that has been maintained over time.

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<v SPEAKER\_1>And since the 2010 era, we have had a national

shipbuilding strategy that was purposely created to both build ships, but also to maintain the industrial capacity to produce those ships for the government of Canada.

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<v SPEAKER\_1>It has had a number of different challenges, in part because we had let the previous industry really deteriorate to the point where it was no longer world-class.

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<v SPEAKER\_1>And we have been rebuilding that as well as building new ships.

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<v SPEAKER\_1>On the fighter aircraft front, the F-35 project I think came into a number of different parts of political controversy for a whole series of reasons.

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<v SPEAKER\_1>Part of that was that we in Canada made a decision that we were going to purchase the aircraft back in the 2010 time frame.

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<v SPEAKER\_1>Right at the time when that project was running into a lot of difficulties going through the American process and you had people like former Senator John McCain questioning how it was being managed.

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<v SPEAKER\_1>And that hit bad press in Canada at a time that was not politically very opportunistic.

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<v SPEAKER\_1>We've always had for decades in Canada, we have operated American aircraft in part because we operate a bi-national North American Aerospace Defense Command that provides for the aerospace defense of North America collectively.

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<v SPEAKER\_1>And that in part requires that Canada has very, very close, very intimate working relationships between the Royal Canadian Air Force and the United States Air Force of its various components.

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<v SPEAKER\_1>And so that creates a very strong incentive to have our operational requirements for aircraft be very closely aligned with those of the United States.

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<v SPEAKER\_1>Notwithstanding that, that purchase was going to see a

lot more money leave the country, and that created some of the controversy around that particular file.

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<v SPEAKER\_2>What do you think about Germany's approach in this part, Thomas?

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<v SPEAKER\_3>Yes, thank you very much for the question.

00:21:08.523 --> 00:21:13.123

<v SPEAKER\_3>As you know, my contingency is Bremen and Bremer Alphen.

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<v SPEAKER\_3>So I grew up with shipbuilding and with the marine.

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<v SPEAKER\_3>So I'm very used to questions regarding our capacities of being able to build ships and especially ships for army use.

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<v SPEAKER\_3>So this is an interesting point, I think, in our relationship because it takes us deep into the strategic culture and decision-making rationale in our different countries, I think.

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<v SPEAKER\_3>Germany has, as I mentioned, traditionally been strong in defence technology, especially in the maritime sector.

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<v SPEAKER\_3>So the export success of submarines, for example, shows this very clearly.

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<v SPEAKER\_3>Our industry is a global leader in this technology.

00:22:00.483 --> 00:22:06.283

<v SPEAKER\_3>We are doing a common project with the next generation of submarines together with Norway.

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<v SPEAKER\_3>And it is a very fine project with a good development in the past.

00:22:14.143 --> 00:22:22.303

<v SPEAKER\_3>And I'm convinced that we will deliver a very good new submarine generation within the next years.

00:22:22.303 --> 00:22:26.683

<v SPEAKER\_3>Our industry is a global leader in this technology.

00:22:27.303 --> 00:22:32.943

<v SPEAKER\_3>And at the same time, we see in our navy capability gaps.

00:22:32.943 --> 00:22:34.143

<v SPEAKER\_3>We do have them.

00:22:34.143 --> 00:22:40.683

<v SPEAKER\_3>And we have delays, actual probably, with our frigate, the next generation.

00:22:40.683 --> 00:22:44.483

<v SPEAKER\_3>We do have sluggish implementation.

00:22:44.483 --> 00:22:49.943

<v SPEAKER\_3>This is the result of complex procurement procedures.

00:22:50.803 --> 00:22:57.443

<v SPEAKER\_3>We are used to, in times of everlasting peace, not believing.

00:22:57.443 --> 00:23:08.383

<v SPEAKER\_3>So we do have complex procurement procedures, federal responsibilities, for example, especially in building our infrastructure.

00:23:08.383 --> 00:23:17.163

<v SPEAKER\_3>We are, quite frankly, years of investment backlogs, which are only now slowly being caught up on.

00:23:17.163 --> 00:23:24.283

<v SPEAKER\_3>The situation, in my opinion, was similar with the Eurofighter and the decision to opt for the F-35 aircraft.

00:23:24.283 --> 00:23:31.623

<v SPEAKER\_3>So F-35 was needed, was urgent needed as a nuclear sharing capability.

00:23:31.623 --> 00:23:36.083

<v SPEAKER\_3>A clear security policy decision in the current situation.

00:23:36.083 --> 00:23:42.183

<v SPEAKER\_3>But the Eurofighter remains, in our opinion, important for other roles.

00:23:42.183 --> 00:23:52.863

<v SPEAKER\_3>But in terms of nuclear deterrence, the American system was simply the pragmatic choice, and it was able to be delivered in short time.

00:23:52.863 --> 00:23:58.443

<v SPEAKER\_3>So this was the reason for our decision to order the F-35.

00:23:58.443 --> 00:24:06.643

<v SPEAKER\_3>And I think, yes, I do not know very in detail what are the details regarding Canada.

00:24:06.643 --> 00:24:21.703

<v SPEAKER\_3>But my perception is that both countries are seeking to strike a balance between national industrial policy, political acceptance and, and that's very urgent in my opinion, strategic necessity.

00:24:21.703 --> 00:24:36.423

<v SPEAKER\_3>Germany may be approached the somewhat more technocratically and focus more on industrial policy, with Canada being more consensus-oriented and basing this on a broader political debate.

00:24:36.483 --> 00:24:42.623

<v SPEAKER\_3>But in the end, again, what counts is that both countries are committed to NATO.

00:24:42.623 --> 00:24:52.843

<v SPEAKER\_3>Both are investing in capabilities that the Alliance needs, which in capacities we need together within NATO.

00:24:52.843 --> 00:25:04.903

<v SPEAKER\_3>So I think it is very necessary to know we do have both capabilities and we have to put them into our common defence system of NATO.

00:25:07.383 --> 00:25:13.303

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00:25:13.303 --> 00:25:18.323

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00:25:23.403 --> 00:25:24.563

<v SPEAKER\_2>Thank you very much.

00:25:24.603 --> 00:25:32.603

<v SPEAKER\_2>Before David Perry again will ask Thomas Röwekamp, maybe about submarine project.

00:25:32.603 --> 00:25:37.563

<v SPEAKER\_2>It's discussed here in Canada since months now.

00:25:37.563 --> 00:25:50.023

<v SPEAKER\_2>Canada has decided to focus now on South Korea and Germany at TKMS, and we will see what will be the decision at the end during the next few months, I think so.

00:25:51.923 --> 00:26:07.863

<v SPEAKER\_2>But we should be aware, as Canada and Germany and NATO, that the northern flank of NATO has to be defended or will be defended in the near future, especially also in the Arctic.

00:26:07.863 --> 00:26:14.863

<v SPEAKER\_2>Arctic could be a possible field of conflict between Russia, China, NATO.

00:26:16.323 --> 00:26:27.223

<v SPEAKER\_2>All we discuss about Greenland and other things, there might be the interest of the US, for example, looking to Greenland, what will happen in the Arctic.

00:26:27.223 --> 00:26:33.623

<v SPEAKER\_2>But it's not our topic, maybe, or it's our topic, but I don't want to discuss it now further on.

00:26:33.623 --> 00:26:35.463

<v SPEAKER\_2>I will come to Poland.

00:26:35.463 --> 00:26:53.443

<v SPEAKER\_2>But before we start with the current situation in Poland, let me ask Thomas, or David, what about the unavoidable impact now of Ukraine crisis, according to the German Foreign Affairs Declarations?

00:26:53.443 --> 00:26:58.743

<v SPEAKER\_2>Germany's contributions amounts to approximately 25 percent.

00:26:58.783 --> 00:27:07.903

<v SPEAKER\_2>Mandatory contributions totaling 500 to 221, 521 million euro have already been paid.

00:27:07.903 --> 00:27:26.103

<v SPEAKER\_2>And with Canada, the Defence Department declares that since the beginning of 2024, the Ukraine war, Canada has committed 6.5 billion in military assistance to Ukraine through 2029.

00:27:26.843 --> 00:27:34.283

<v SPEAKER\_2>And they will have a big contingent of soldiers in Baltic state.

00:27:36.023 --> 00:27:46.163

<v SPEAKER\_2>Also, do you personally think both countries' commitment will change the course of physical operations in this field?

00:27:46.163 --> 00:27:56.963

<v SPEAKER\_2>Answer goes to both, but looking to what we want to discuss at the end, the current situation may be maybe short answers.

00:27:56.963 --> 00:27:59.363

<v SPEAKER\_2>Who wants to start, Dave?

00:27:59.363 --> 00:28:01.423

<v SPEAKER\_1>Okay, Dave.

00:28:01.423 --> 00:28:12.783

<v SPEAKER\_1>I would offer that I think it's difficult to tell what any individual national contribution is contributing and how much that can change individualistically the course of the physical battlefield.

00:28:12.783 --> 00:28:22.803

<v SPEAKER\_1>I think we need to look at things collectively that the West comprehensively has provided an enormous volume of support, but this is the first large scale conventional war that we've seen fought.

00:28:23.383 --> 00:28:29.283

<v SPEAKER\_1>So, the demand both in terms of personnel, equipment, support is enormous.

00:28:29.283 --> 00:28:39.183

<v SPEAKER\_1>I think collectively we have been able to provide enough so far to keep Ukraine fighting, but not yet been able to provide them enough to let them win yet.

00:28:39.183 --> 00:28:48.843

<v SPEAKER\_1>I hope that there is a possibility of this changing, but the different approach from the Trump administration I think is making that somewhat more difficult than it was before.

00:28:48.843 --> 00:28:54.443

<v SPEAKER\_1>I certainly think I keep coming back to the current discussion in Canada about defence industrial strategy.

00:28:54.443 --> 00:29:05.083

<v SPEAKER\_1>Our desire to support Ukrainians in their fight for a whole number of reasons, both values-based as well as personal ties with a very large Ukrainian diaspora population in Canada.

00:29:05.103 --> 00:29:13.863

<v SPEAKER\_1>Ukraine is about as much of a sympathetic donor for

military assistance as Canadian politicians could envision.

00:29:13.863 --> 00:29:41.063

<v SPEAKER\_1>While we have committed several billions of dollars and many pieces of equipment, I think our contributions to date also highlighted the shortcomings of our existing military structure because we simply did not have nearly as much to give that I think we would have ideally like to, as well as a limited ability to leverage our own industrial production, which we have incrementally but not on a consistent or long-term basis.

00:29:41.063 --> 00:30:01.143

<v SPEAKER\_1>I think we could do much more if we would simply commit to a certain level of funding a year and go to some of the key Canadian manufacturers and ask them to make as many vehicles or drones or ammunition shells or anything else as they could on a consistent basis year over year until the government basically decides that we are no longer going to support Ukraine.

00:30:01.143 --> 00:30:04.243

<v SPEAKER\_1>Changing some of that approach I think could be more effective.

00:30:04.243 --> 00:30:12.263

<v SPEAKER\_1>I think some of the things that I have read about Germany doing, such as locating production in Ukraine itself, have been really interesting possibilities.

00:30:12.263 --> 00:30:16.343

<v SPEAKER\_2>Thomas, something to add to or should we come to nearly the last question?

00:30:17.143 --> 00:30:43.043

<v SPEAKER\_3>Yes, I will only add that I was in Ukraine three weeks ago and in every discussion I had, they assured that they are very grateful for the support of the NATO partners and especially for the German support, because at the moment, we are the financial reason, we are the biggest supporter of the Ukrainian army.

00:30:43.043 --> 00:31:03.363

<v SPEAKER\_3>Yes, our support started on a low level, but it increased, I think, very heavily, and so we are now ranging our defence systems as RST to tanks and artillery, ammunition, training of Ukrainian soldiers.

00:31:03.363 --> 00:31:08.023

<v SPEAKER\_3>So we do, I think, a lot of support for the troops.

00:31:08.023 --> 00:31:20.323

<v SPEAKER\_3>We have to continue it, and I think especially regarding

the happenings of today, we have to increase it, especially in supporting long-distance weapons.

00:31:20.463 --> 00:31:28.203

<v SPEAKER\_3>I think they are very necessary for the defence of Ukraine within the next weeks and months.

00:31:28.203 --> 00:31:39.343

<v SPEAKER\_2>David, may I ask you if you want to ask Thomas Röwekamp from the German Bundestag your nearly last question?

00:31:39.343 --> 00:31:39.863

<v SPEAKER\_1>Yes.

00:31:39.863 --> 00:31:49.963

<v SPEAKER\_1>So Canada and Germany, I think, have had close relations for a long time, but are on a trajectory of those relationships becoming even closer and deepening.

00:31:50.203 --> 00:31:58.423

<v SPEAKER\_1>I've seen some formal agreements, including tripartite discussions between Canada, Germany and Norway.

00:31:58.423 --> 00:32:07.203

<v SPEAKER\_1>There's a number of different possibilities to strengthen cooperation in a material sense between our two navies in both directions, I think.

00:32:07.203 --> 00:32:20.223

<v SPEAKER\_1>And as was mentioned, Canada is in the early phase of trying to move very quickly on a submarine replacement and submarine increase project, which could see Canada acquire up to 12 conventional submarines.

00:32:20.223 --> 00:32:30.523

<v SPEAKER\_1>And we just recently, in a few weeks ago, announced that we had shortlisted the contenders to both the TKMS, German supplier, and the consortium from the Republic of Korea.

00:32:30.523 --> 00:32:31.523

<v SPEAKER\_1>So we're down to two.

00:32:31.523 --> 00:32:36.183

<v SPEAKER\_1>And in the Canadian terms, this project is going lightning fast.

00:32:36.183 --> 00:32:46.683

<v SPEAKER\_1>I think one of the key things that Canada is looking for, because this is going to be one of, if not the largest ever Canadian procurement project.

00:32:46.683 --> 00:32:50.143

<v SPEAKER\_1>And we will own and operate these vessels over a very long period of time.

00:32:50.143 --> 00:32:52.743

<v SPEAKER\_1>We are looking to not just buy a piece of equipment.

00:32:52.743 --> 00:33:02.323

<v SPEAKER\_1>We are looking to engage in a long-term, very close strategic relationship with the country and company from which we acquire submarines.

00:33:02.323 --> 00:33:16.843

<v SPEAKER\_1>So I'm interested in your perspective about how the submarines fit inside the German Armed Forces structure, as well as how the company is approaching and the country is thinking about this potential sale and what it might mean with the partnership for Canada.

00:33:16.843 --> 00:33:19.403

<v SPEAKER\_3>So yes, we are very interested in this partnership.

00:33:19.403 --> 00:33:27.243

<v SPEAKER\_3>As you may know, we are discussing about only six submarines for Germany and another six for Norway.

00:33:27.243 --> 00:33:32.163

<v SPEAKER\_3>So we do have the problem that each submarine is very expensive.

00:33:32.163 --> 00:33:40.083

<v SPEAKER\_3>And if we are able to scale the output of common productions, so it will be a win-win situation for Germany as well.

00:33:40.803 --> 00:33:52.063

<v SPEAKER\_3>And I think it is very necessary to send a sign of interoperability and to do more common processes, especially in Navy projects.

00:33:52.363 --> 00:34:02.063

<v SPEAKER\_3>We can do more together because we have to fight together in the situation, whether in the Atlantic or probably in other regions.

00:34:02.063 --> 00:34:11.243

<v SPEAKER\_3>So we are very interested in a long-term relationship between our Navies as well as between our industry capacities.

00:34:11.243 --> 00:34:13.043

<v SPEAKER\_2>Thank you very much to both of you.

00:34:13.043 --> 00:34:15.903

<v SPEAKER\_2>But we are coming to the end now.

00:34:15.903 --> 00:34:39.883

<v SPEAKER\_2>But one issue, beneath procurement, beneath other really important topics, looking to the multiple delays with Airbus Defenses A400M, it's like the same or could be compared with Canada's C130 Hercules Lockheed Martin procurement.

00:34:39.883 --> 00:34:50.523

<v SPEAKER\_2>I think procurement and interoperability between NATO partners, that is one of the main issues we have to work on and to solve.

00:34:50.643 --> 00:35:04.443

<v SPEAKER\_2>But looking to the current situation and what has happened during the night from the 9th of the 10th, what do you think about the situation?

00:35:04.443 --> 00:35:05.443

<v SPEAKER\_2>Is it likely?

00:35:05.443 --> 00:35:08.163

<v SPEAKER\_2>And this question goes to both of you.

00:35:08.163 --> 00:35:33.363

<v SPEAKER\_2>It seems, from my point of view, it seems highly unlikely that around, I think so, 17 drones whose armament has not yet been definitively clarified would have moved in the wrong direction, namely towards Poland tonight, thereby clearly violating NATO airspace.

00:35:33.363 --> 00:35:40.863

<v SPEAKER\_2>Poland has reacted, cleared requests to come together in accordance with Article 4 of NATO.

00:35:42.463 --> 00:35:47.883

<v SPEAKER\_2>Is therefore more understandable, I think so, that they have reacted.

00:35:47.883 --> 00:36:02.823

<v SPEAKER\_2>And yes, it's about air defence, about better capabilities for the future, for the Ukraine, but as well for the whole NATO, that is, I think that belongs to each other.

00:36:02.823 --> 00:36:08.183

<v SPEAKER\_2>And we have to discuss how Ukraine can defend itself better.

00:36:08.463 --> 00:36:17.583

<v SPEAKER\_2>But also, NATO should be aware of this violation of NATO airspace.

00:36:17.583 --> 00:36:38.363

<v SPEAKER\_2>And it has, from my point of view, finally made clear what has been debated and discussed over and over again for the past minimum year or two, namely the violation of NATO airspace and the corresponding counterreaction or the expected tests by Russia in the direction in NATO.

00:36:38.363 --> 00:36:43.943

<v SPEAKER\_2>However, last night also showed, first, we are vigilant.

00:36:43.943 --> 00:36:45.463

<v SPEAKER\_2>Second, NATO is vigilant.

00:36:45.463 --> 00:36:49.843

<v SPEAKER\_2>And third, Russia should simply refrain from testing this.

00:36:49.843 --> 00:37:02.743

<v SPEAKER\_2>What is your current view to the situation of tonight between Poland and Ukraine and the violation of NATO airspace through Russian drones?

00:37:03.603 --> 00:37:04.363

<v SPEAKER\_2>Who would start?

00:37:04.363 --> 00:37:10.583

<v SPEAKER\_2>Maybe Thomas Röwekamp, because he is the chairman of the Committee of Defence.

00:37:10.583 --> 00:37:11.763

<v SPEAKER\_2>And how is the current situation?

00:37:11.763 --> 00:37:22.963

<v SPEAKER\_2>As far as I remember, the Minister for Defence, Boris Pistorius, has answered some questions today to that issue, that urgent issue today in the German Bundestag.

00:37:22.963 --> 00:37:30.123

<v SPEAKER\_2>Maybe you can share a little bit what was the discussion in the German Bundestag today.

00:37:30.123 --> 00:37:30.983

<v SPEAKER\_3>Yes, thank you very much.

00:37:31.363 --> 00:37:48.743

<v SPEAKER\_3>I think the first answer is the attack and the violation of NATO is another example that the goal of the war of Russia is not

to get some territory in Ukraine.

00:37:48.743 --> 00:37:53.383

<v SPEAKER\_3>It is a war against our democracy, our stability, our security.

00:37:53.383 --> 00:37:59.783

<v SPEAKER\_3>And it is another escalation, I think, of a war which is happening every day in Europe.

00:37:59.903 --> 00:38:10.703

<v SPEAKER\_3>So we see drones every day, especially observing our infrastructure, the military infrastructure, but also the civil infrastructure.

00:38:10.703 --> 00:38:14.483

<v SPEAKER\_3>We do see attacks on our energy infrastructure.

00:38:14.483 --> 00:38:19.243

<v SPEAKER\_3>So there are many attacks under the line of a military escalation.

00:38:19.243 --> 00:38:28.263

<v SPEAKER\_3>But we see that this war is not only directed against Ukraine, but also directed against Europe and especially NATO.

00:38:28.683 --> 00:38:38.923

<v SPEAKER\_3>So I think it underlined that there is no way to defend ourselves than to support Ukraine in defending against this war.

00:38:38.923 --> 00:39:06.543

<v SPEAKER\_3>So we have to increase our, and that's clear from Germany, we have to increase our support for Ukraine, especially in middle and long-range capacities to destroy the production of drones and to destroy the airport or something else from which the drones are starting every day to destroy civil infrastructure in Ukraine and to attack NATO.

00:39:06.543 --> 00:39:32.583

<v SPEAKER\_3>So this is, I think we have to discuss within Europe, but also I think with our friends in US to extend the sanctions against Russia and on a wake-up call we saw this morning to increase all the things we can do to fight with our Ukrainian friends against this attack.

00:39:32.583 --> 00:39:40.923

<v SPEAKER\_3>And the second wake-up call is within our society, because in Germany we do still have the discussion whether peace is not better than war.

00:39:41.203 --> 00:39:44.883

<v SPEAKER\_3>And negotiation could not be helped to end this war.

00:39:44.883 --> 00:39:50.923

<v SPEAKER\_3>And I think the signal we saw this morning from Russia is they do not want peace.

00:39:50.923 --> 00:39:53.183

<v SPEAKER\_3>They do not want negotiations.

00:39:53.183 --> 00:40:07.603

<v SPEAKER\_3>And we have to work on the mind change of our own population, which are not used to have debates about peace and war and increase our capabilities and so on.

00:40:07.963 --> 00:40:10.663

<v SPEAKER\_3>And I think, yes, there are two answers.

00:40:10.663 --> 00:40:17.083

<v SPEAKER\_3>There must be a strong answer against Russia within NATO and within the European Union.

00:40:17.083 --> 00:40:21.943

<v SPEAKER\_3>And we have to strengthen and increase our support for Ukraine.

00:40:21.943 --> 00:40:36.723

<v SPEAKER\_3>But we also have to make clear to our own population, there is no other way to end this war by supporting Ukraine in its defence against Russia.

00:40:37.063 --> 00:40:41.103

<v SPEAKER\_3>I think that's, yes, that are the answers of today.

00:40:41.103 --> 00:40:42.183

<v SPEAKER\_2>Thank you very much.

00:40:42.183 --> 00:40:48.563

<v SPEAKER\_2>I could now ask many more questions, what is necessary, looking to Tauros and others.

00:40:48.563 --> 00:40:51.363

<v SPEAKER\_2>But that is not today to be discussed.

00:40:51.363 --> 00:41:03.623

<v SPEAKER\_2>It should be decided at some time through governments of NATO, what to do now, and the ministers of NATO sitting together on the basis of Article 4.

00:41:03.903 --> 00:41:08.883

<v SPEAKER\_2>But maybe, David, question or answering, it's your decision.

00:41:08.883 --> 00:41:13.443

<v SPEAKER\_1>Well, I would just add, I would agree with all of what was just said.

00:41:13.443 --> 00:41:24.123

<v SPEAKER\_1>But I would also say that notwithstanding that we don't have all the information yet, Russia has well-earned, not deserving any benefit of the doubt for this purely being an accident.

00:41:24.123 --> 00:41:31.603

<v SPEAKER\_1>And I think it's incredibly concerning what happened, that especially from a personal view, that it happened so soon after the Alaska Summit.

00:41:32.223 --> 00:41:42.523

<v SPEAKER\_1>I think it highlights both, to come back to your question about procurement, issues about really dramatically fixing and improving a number of aspects about how we obtain defence material.

00:41:42.523 --> 00:41:54.343

<v SPEAKER\_1>But I think it also points to, particularly when it comes to air defence assets, we need to really collectively as part of the West address a limited defence production of some key parts of material equipment.

00:41:54.343 --> 00:42:06.943

<v SPEAKER\_1>Air defence is one key part of that, where even though we're working collaboratively to support Ukraine, NATO as a whole does not make sufficient quantities of air defence systems or air defence interceptors.

00:42:06.943 --> 00:42:14.403

<v SPEAKER\_1>And I think this is yet more evidence today about why in a current threat context, we really need strengthened air defences.

00:42:14.403 --> 00:42:27.643

<v SPEAKER\_1>Because notwithstanding anything we've done to limit Russia's ability to produce these kinds of weapons, they are still able to send them not only to Ukraine, but also in large quantities over the border of a NATO ally, whether or not it happened by accident or was intentional.

00:42:28.583 --> 00:42:35.383

<v SPEAKER\_2>Thank you very much to my neighbour here in Ottawa, David Perry, CEO of CGAI.

00:42:35.383 --> 00:42:41.683

<v SPEAKER\_2>Thank you very much to the Chairman of the Committee of Defence of the German Bundestag, Thomas Röwekamp.

00:42:41.683 --> 00:42:45.383

<v SPEAKER\_2>Thank you very much for hearing to our podcast today.

00:42:45.383 --> 00:42:48.143

<v SPEAKER\_2>I think it was very interesting.

00:42:48.143 --> 00:42:50.243

<v SPEAKER\_2>Thank you for participating to this episode.

00:42:50.763 --> 00:42:52.823

<v SPEAKER\_2>To Thomas and David, thank you very much.

00:42:58.748 --> 00:43:00.888

<v SPEAKER\_1>Thanks for listening to Defence Deconstructed.

00:43:00.888 --> 00:43:06.348

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00:43:06.348 --> 00:43:12.948

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00:43:12.948 --> 00:43:15.568

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00:43:15.568 --> 00:43:16.848

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