

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 607

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the majority of NATO member countries have failed to meet their defense spending commitment and that the United States should not continue to subsidize the security of countries that choose not to invest in their own defense.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 20, 2023

Mr. ROY (for himself and Mr. DAVIDSON) submitted the following resolution;
which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the majority of NATO member countries have failed to meet their defense spending commitment and that the United States should not continue to subsidize the security of countries that choose not to invest in their own defense.

Whereas, on April 4, 1949, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, the United Kingdom, and the United States signed the North Atlantic Treaty in Washington, DC, and established the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) to safeguard the Allies' freedom and security by political and military means;

Whereas Article 5 of the North Atlantic Treaty states that an armed attack against a member country shall be considered an attack against all;

Whereas, in the Report of the Secretary of State to the President on North Atlantic Treaty on April 7, 1949, Secretary of State Dean Acheson stated, “that no party can rely on others for its defense unless it does its utmost to defend itself and contribute toward the defense of the others”;

Whereas, in 2006, NATO Defense Ministers agreed to annually commit a minimum of 2 percent of their nation’s Gross Domestic Product (GDP) on their defense;

Whereas, according to NATO, the 2-percent GDP defense spending threshold “serves as an indicator of a country’s political will to contribute to NATO’s common defense”;

Whereas, in 2014, in response to Russia’s annexation of Crimea, the NATO alliance adopted the “Defence Investment Pledge” and at that time only three of the 28 NATO member countries were meeting their 2-percent defense spending commitment;

Whereas the Wales Summit Declaration issued by the NATO alliance stated, “We agree to reverse the trend of declining defence budgets, to make the most effective use of our funds and to further a more balanced sharing of costs and responsibilities. Our overall security and defence depend both on how much we spend and how we spend it.”;

Whereas the “Defence Investment Pledge” recommitted NATO member countries to meeting the minimum 2-percent GDP defense spending target by 2024;

Whereas the Senate supported the 2014 Wales Summit Defense Spending Benchmark on March 28, 2017, by ratifying the “Protocol to the North Atlantic Treaty of 1949 on the Accession of Montenegro” on a vote of 97–2;

Whereas, according to the 2022 Secretary General’s Annual Report, only seven of the 30 NATO member countries met the 2-percent GDP defense spending obligations in 2022;

Whereas Estonia, Greece, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, and the United Kingdom all successfully joined the United States in meeting the minimum 2-percent GDP defense spending obligations in 2022;

Whereas Croatia, France, Slovakia, Romania, the Netherlands, North Macedonia, Norway, Albania, Bulgaria, Italy, Germany, Hungary, Denmark, Portugal, Turkey, Montenegro, the Czech Republic, Canada, Slovenia, Belgium, Spain, and Luxembourg failed to meet the GDP defense spending obligations in 2022;

Whereas numerous NATO member countries use the United States security umbrella to evade the financial commitment needed to maintain the military strength of the NATO alliance;

Whereas the 2022 Secretary General’s Annual Report revealed—

(1) the United States accounted for 54 percent of the Allies’ combined GDP and 70 percent of combined defense expenditure;

(2) Canada’s defense spending amounted to 1.29 percent of its GDP, making it the fifth-lowest-spending NATO member country as a percentage of GDP; and

(3) Germany's defense spending amounted to 1.49 percent of its GDP on national defense, despite having Europe's largest economy;

Whereas Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February 2022 represents the largest armed conflict in Europe since the end of World War II;

Whereas the United States is the largest contributor to Ukraine, despite this conflict taking place on the European continent, and has appropriated over \$113,000,000,000 in response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine;

Whereas the European Union (EU) and its member states have collectively pledged an estimated \$76,000,000,000 in assistance to Ukraine, as well as additional expenditures related to the support of refugees and NATO deterrence deployments to central and eastern Europe; and

Whereas European countries in NATO should be leading the effort to advance the security of their continent and should not delay any longer in meeting the 2-percent defense spending obligations: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) recognizes that the 2014 Wales Summit De-
3 fense Spending Benchmark ensures the NATO Alli-
4 ance can maintain the best common defense to safe-
5 guard its members in the event a mutual military re-
6 sponse is warranted;

7 (2) asserts that for far too long the majority of
8 NATO member countries have relied on the financial
9 contributions and military capabilities of the United

1 States and have failed to fully invest in their own
2 defense;

3 (3) praises Estonia, Greece, Latvia, Lithuania,
4 Poland, and the United Kingdom for meeting the
5 minimum 2-percent GDP defense spending obliga-
6 tions in 2022;

7 (4) denounces Croatia, France, Slovakia, Roma-
8 nia, the Netherlands, North Macedonia, Norway, Al-
9 bania, Bulgaria, Italy, Germany, Hungary, Den-
10 mark, Portugal, Turkey, Montenegro, the Czech Re-
11 public, Canada, Slovenia, Belgium, Spain, and
12 Luxembourg's failure to meet the minimum 2-per-
13 cent GDP defense spending obligation in 2022 and
14 strongly urges these nations to fulfill the commit-
15 ment they pledged to meet;

16 (5) maintains that European countries in
17 NATO should be chiefly responsible for safeguarding
18 the European continent and should not delay in
19 meeting the 2-percent defense spending obligations;

20 (6) expresses that the United States should not
21 continue subsidizing NATO member countries who
22 choose not to invest in their own defense by meeting
23 the 2014 Wales Summit Defense Spending Bench-
24 mark; and

1 (7) calls on NATO leaders to make the 2-per-
2 cent defense spending pledge binding for all NATO
3 member countries.

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