

Today's NATO is 'Shadow of Its Own Self' - German MP

Jurgen Trittin has chimed in on the comment thread that followed President Macron's words about NATO's "cerebral death", calling to wake up to reality and not ignore objective truths.

For the time being, NATO is going through an existential crisis, being just a "shadow" of what it used to be, Jurgen Trittin, a Bundestag member from the Green Party and member of the German Parliament's Foreign Policy Committee, shared in a Der Spiegel op-ed.

"One can choose to sugarcoat NATO, like German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas is doing or state unequivocally: the alliance is losing its integrity", the parliamentarian wrote.

President Macron's words about NATO's "brain death" are all correct, the op-ed's author says.

"What's the alliance about if its biggest economic player deems cars from Germany, the second biggest one, as a threat to its national security?" the politician queries.

According to him, the German foreign minister misses the NATO "that no longer exists".

"In the 70th year of its existence, the alliance is more like just a shadow of its own self", Trittin notes.

Due to its members' varying interests, the alliance is no longer capable of maintaining their security, Trittin believes, pointing out that strategic discrepancies between the NATO members make themselves obvious with regard to ties with Russia as well.

He notes that one such discrepancy was vis-a-vis Iran, citing President Trump's move to unilaterally withdraw from the landmark nuclear deal with Iran (JCPOA) without consulting the other members of NATO.

Meanwhile, European officials' statements to make good on promises to uphold trade with Iran turned out to be in vain, the MP states.

"If NATO no longer guards Europe's essential security interests, if NATO members even jeopardize European security, Germany has to shoulder more responsibility", the parliamentarian stresses adding emphasis should be put on a new sustainable sovereignty strategy in Europe.

"The time has come to be honest", Trittin sums up, underscoring the approach would be contrary to NATO's "brain death".

Earlier this month, President Emmanuel Macron told The Economist that "we are currently experiencing . . . the brain death of NATO" and Europe "must regain military sovereignty".

German Chancellor Angela Merkel, along with NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg, knocked Macron for his "drastic words" and argued that NATO remains a key pillar of Germany's security.

German Defense Minister Florence Parly also weighed in, clarifying Macron's remarks and saying he didn't mean the death of the alliance as such, but rather called attention to the ongoing crisis in NATO that has to be urgently dealt with.

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