Unclassified

Secretary of Defense

Distribution:

President of the United States

White House Counsel

Secretary of State

Chief of Staff

European Union Representative

Flash Bulletin

Subject: Department of Defense response to allegations of EU violations of international law.

Status: Formal Policy Objection

Event:

On November 10, 2026, White House Counsel alleged that the European Union violated international law by withdrawing military, humanitarian, and economic support for Ukraine. The Department of Defense recognizes that this decision may affect Ukrainian defense capabilities and regional stability. However, a change in foreign assistance does not automatically establish a treaty violation. The EU retains authority over its financial and defense priorities, subject to its actual legal obligations. The bulletin does not identify the specific treaty provisions allegedly breached. Its recommendation to involve the International Court of Justice also raises unresolved questions of jurisdiction, particularly because the EU is not a state party to contentious proceedings before that Court.

Action:

The Department recommends that White House Counsel identify the precise legal basis for its allegations before further action is considered. The administration should assess the military consequences of reduced EU assistance, consult European partners, and prioritize diplomacy over premature legal escalation. The Department does not recommend treating a political disagreement as an established violation of international law without supporting legal analysis.

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