France Named in European Team for Ukraine Peace Talks

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France will join **Germany, the United Kingdom, Italy and Poland** in a European negotiating team for future Ukraine peace negotiations, EU leaders agreed in Dublin on 13 November. Representatives of the European Commission and the European Council will also participate in the negotiations.

The decision formalises Europe's negotiating team rather than appointing a single envoy. For Paris, it preserves a role alongside London and Berlin within a broader European framework.

The agreement within Europe does not guarantee that Moscow will accept an expanded negotiating table. US envoys said Russia had agreed to European participation, but the Kremlin subsequently said it wanted clarification of the Europeans' intentions before deciding.

European Council President António Costa stressed that Ukraine alone could decide questions concerning its territory and sovereignty. Security guarantees, he said, should be addressed through the **Coalition of the Willing** in coordination with NATO.

France now faces the challenge of turning its place in the European team into influence over the substance of the talks. The next test is whether Europe's agreed format can translate into direct negotiations and credible commitments to Ukraine's security.

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