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Russian Foreign Ministry Slams NATO's Eastern Europe Plans

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A NATO flag flies at the Alliance headquarters in Brussels.

NATO's plan to beef up its military presence near Russia's borders endangers security and stability in Europe, Russian Foreign Ministry representative Maria Zakharova said in a news conference Wednesday, the state-run RIA Novosti news agency reported.

"We do not understand the reason for such an action. We assume that NATO's [planned action] threatens Russia and also endangers security and stability in Europe," Zakharova said.

NATO defense ministers gathered in Brussels on Wednesday to discuss additional military build-up in the Baltic countries and in central and southern Europe, the Interfax news agency reported.

"We are extensively increasing our presence and the readiness of our forces," NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg said, Interfax reported.

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