The Moscow Times
30 YEARS
INDEPENDENT NEWS FROM RUSSIA

Germany's Merz Says Ukraine Can Use Western Long-Range Weapons on Targets in Russia

May 26, 2025



army.mil

Kyiv's Western allies are no longer imposing any range restrictions on the use of weapons delivered to Ukraine against Russian military targets, German Chancellor Friedrich Merz said Monday.

"There are no longer any range restrictions for weapons supplied to Ukraine, neither from the British, the French, us or the Americans," Merz told the broadcaster WDR.

"This means that Ukraine can now defend itself, including, for example, by attacking military positions in Russia, which it couldn't do up to a certain point," he added.

Ukraine's Western allies had initially restricted the use of long-range missiles to targets within Ukrainian territory under Russian occupation. But the United States and Britain authorized strikes on Russian soil last November after North Korean troops were sent to

support Russian forces in the Kursk region, which Ukrainian troops had attacked in August.

President Vladimir Putin condemned that decision at the time, warning that it would mean NATO is "at war with Russia." He responded by broadening Russia's nuclear doctrine, authorizing the use of nuclear weapons in response to large-scale conventional attacks or attacks by non-nuclear states backed by nuclear powers.

Related article: Ukraine Stands Ready to Return All POWs. Why Won't Russia?

Besides the U.S. and the U.K., France also supplied long-range missiles to Ukraine. Merz previously signaled that he would overturn the ban of his predecessor, Olaf Scholz, on sending German-made Taurus cruise missiles to Ukraine.

France has not confirmed whether it has given Ukraine the go-ahead to use weapons it has supplied for use in strikes against targets on Russian territory.

The Kremlin said later on Monday that the decision to allow more long-range strikes with Western weapons threatened to derail direct peace negotiations that began with Ukraine earlier this month.

"If such decisions were indeed made, they potentially run counter to our efforts toward a political resolution," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters.

Russia's lower-house State Duma Defense Committee chairman Andrei Kartapolov described Merz's latest comments as a reaction to Ukraine's "howling and crying to save them."

"This is nothing new for us, we've been foreseeing this possibility for a long time and are ready for it," he told Kremlin pool reporters.

"We're successfully carrying out the special military operation and Ukraine is currently losing," Kartapolov said, using the Kremlin's preferred term for Russia's 2022 invasion of Ukraine.

Original url:
https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2025/05/26/germanys-merz-says-ukraine-can-use-western-long-range-weapons-on-targets-in-russia-a89223