



7 years after Putin invaded Crimea, EU underspent on defence by \$½ trillion

PRESS RELEASE - IMMEDIATE

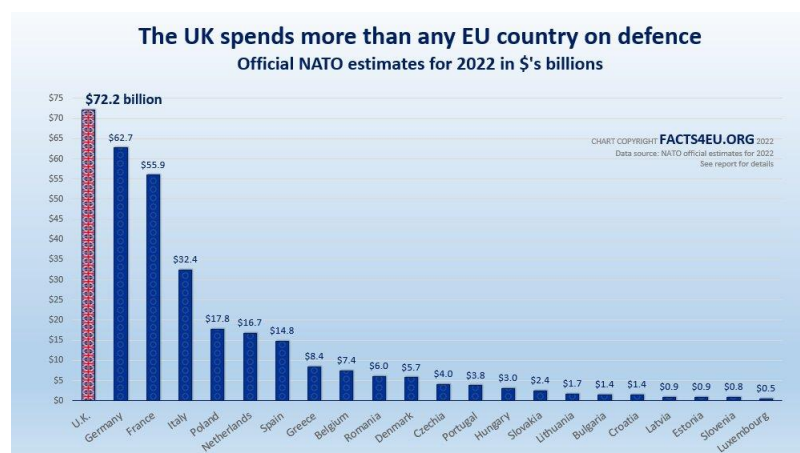
**By contrast the UK exceeded
the NATO minimum by \$26.3bn
in the same period**

**Never let it be said that the UK is not
committed to the defence of Europe.**



In the seven years since the invasion of Crimea (2014-2020), the UK is the **ONLY** major EU-NATO country to have maintained its NATO minimum spend of 2% GDP on defence.

To those who question the UK's commitment to the defence of freedom in Europe, **CIBUK** (<https://cibuk.org/>) – the oldest-established organisation for independence, freedom and democracy in the UK – and its affiliate **Facts4EU.Org** – challenge this claim in a devastating report which exposes the UK's unique contribution to the defence of NATO in Europe.



NATO recognises the UK's contribution, even if the EU never says thank you

- NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg visited No. 10 Downing Street for defence talks with the Prime Minister.
- He went on to praise the UK for leading the multinational battlegroup in Estonia and for providing aircraft and ships to NATO patrols across the EU.

Commenting, CIBUK's Communications Director Ben Philips said:

"As the enclosed report makes clear, and every action and endeavour amply demonstrate, the UK's contribution to the defence of Europe is beyond question.

In these circumstances it is surely time for the British government to exercise that leverage in its dealings with the EU Commission on a range of issues prejudicial to the UK, including the Northern Ireland Protocol as well as a range of other outstanding matters.

If the EU were as resilient and dependable as the UK forces upon which the defence of their empire depends, the remaining political differences between us could surely be sorted out very quickly indeed."

The full report can be read [here](#).