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**EUROPE CAN'T DEFEND ITSELF WITHOUT THE US, NATO'S RUTTE WARNS**

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Politico (26 January 2026)

Victor Jack

Europe is incapable of defending itself without America, NATO chief Mark Rutte said on Monday, speaking just days after Donald Trump's repeated threats to seize Greenland pushed the alliance to the brink of collapse.

If anyone thinks here ... that the European Union or Europe as a whole can defend itself without the U.S., keep on dreaming, he told lawmakers on the European Parliaments defense and foreign affairs committees. You can't.

A European pillar [of NATO] is a bit of an empty word, Rutte said, arguing a European army would create a lot of duplication with the alliance. Moreover, Russian President Vladimir Putin will love it, he added.

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