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Macron, Scholz and Draghi arrive in Kyiv for historic visit

The EU leaders were greeted with air raid sirens in Ukrainian capital.

Е. Макрон, О. Шольц і М. Драгі прибувають до Києва з історичним візитом
Президент Франції Емманюель Макрон, канцлер Німеччини Олаф Шольц та прем'єр-міністр Італії Маріо Драгі прибули до Києва, відвідавши українську столицю вперше з початку російського вторгнення в рамках історичної спільної поїздки. Троє лідерів приїхали нічним потягом до Києва, де їх зустріли сиренами повітряної тривоги на тлі триваючого вторгнення росії. Президент Франції підкреслив, що візит є «посланням європейської єдності і підтримки українцям, [посланням] про сьогоднішнє і майбутнє, тому що найближчі тижні будуть дуже важкими». Е. Макрон заявив, що Президент України Володимир Зеленський «має визначити, що буде для нього військовою перемогою...». Від імені європейських лідерів він підкреслив, що вони за «повну перемогу з відновленням [української] територіальної цілісності над усіма територіями, які були завойовані росіянами, включаючи Крим».

<https://www.politico.eu/article/macron-scholz-draghi-kyiv-visit-zelensky-ukraine/>



French President Emmanuel Macron, German Chancellor Olaf Scholz and Italian Prime Minister Mario Draghi travel on board a train bound to Kyiv after departing from Poland | Ludovic Marin/POOL/AFP via Getty Images

French President Emmanuel Macron, German Chancellor Olaf Scholz and Italian Prime Minister Mario Draghi arrived in Kyiv Thursday morning, visiting the Ukrainian capital for the first time since the beginning of Russia's invasion in a historic joint trip.

The three leaders took a night train to Kyiv, where they were greeted with air raid sirens amid Russia's ongoing invasion. They crossed into Ukraine from the Polish border, [La Repubblica](#) reported early Thursday, although their precise travel plans were unknown, since Paris, Berlin and Rome did not give official details on the highly anticipated trip.

“We're here, focused, and we're about to meet President Zelenskyy now to visit a war site where massacres have been committed, and then to lead the conversations that are scheduled with President Zelenskyy,” Macron said in comments to reporters at the train station in Kyiv.

The visit is “a message of European unity toward Ukrainians, and of support, [a message] about the present and the future because we know the weeks to come are going to be very difficult,” the French president added.

The European leaders visited Irpin, the suburb northwest of Kyiv where Russian invaders destroyed buildings and allegedly tortured and killed civilians during weeks of occupation before Ukrainian forces pushed them out.

They discussed the reconstruction of the town with Oleksiy Chernyshov, the Ukrainian minister for territorial development. Stopping in front of a building covered in graffiti which read “Make Europe not war,” Macron said that “it’s very moving to see that.”

A French diplomatic official told reporters that once Russia’s war is over, “a dialogue” between Moscow and Kyiv “will be needed to find out how we build a sustainable peace,” with security guarantees for Ukraine, and the nature of the relationship between Ukraine and NATO.

The official added: “Zelenskyy must define what would be a military victory for him ... We are in favor of a complete victory with the re-establishment of [Ukrainian] territorial integrity over all the territories that have been conquered by the Russians including Crimea.”

The joint visit from the leaders of the three largest EU economies carries important symbolic weight, especially ahead of a meeting of EU leaders next week, when they are set to decide whether to grant Ukraine candidate status to join the bloc. What Macron, Scholz and Draghi will say on the matter is still unclear.

During a visit on Wednesday to Moldova, which is also seeking EU candidate status, Macron [kept the door open](#) on both Kyiv and Chişinău’s prospects. “I want us to send a clear and positive signal, but we have to build unanimity among EU members. I don’t think we can dissociate Moldova from Ukraine in the prospects that we give,” he said.

“There’s no consensus for candidate status and there’s no consensus for no candidate status. But there seems to be consensus for a third way — candidate status with conditions,” a diplomat familiar with the topic told [Brussels Playbook](#).

Romanian President Klaus Iohannis joined the three leaders in Kyiv, taking another route on Thursday morning.

This article was updated.

Chris Miller reported from Kyiv.