

## PARIS, BERLIN & LONDON SAY THEY ARE READY TO SUPPORT “NECESSARY PROPORTIONATE

### TO DEFEND ALLIED INTERESTS IN THE REGION

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#### **USPA NEWS - FRANCE, GERMANY AND THE UK ISSUE JOINT WARNING TO IRAN AS EUROPE BRACES FOR ESCALATION**

As Iran's missile and drone retaliation continues across the Middle East, Europe is being drawn ever closer to the front line. In the Gulf, a French naval facility in Abu Dhabi has been placed under heightened protection after Iranian strikes and claims of targeting US linked assets and their partners, underlining how exposed European forces have become in a theatre that, until now, many in Paris and Brussels preferred to see as a distant arc of crisis. For France, which already has to protect its citizens in Israel, Lebanon, Iraq and the Gulf monarchies, the message is clear: this is no longer a regional showdown between Washington, Jerusalem and Tehran, but a conflict that can directly threaten European troops, infrastructure and shipping lanes. In response, Paris has chosen to speak not alone but together with Berlin and London, through a rare joint statement by the so called E3.

In this spirit, we publish below the full text of the joint statement by the leaders of France, Germany and the United Kingdom on Iran's indiscriminate attacks, as released by the Elysee, followed by a brief analytical note.

#### **JOINT STATEMENT BY THE LEADERS OF FRANCE, GERMANY & THE UNITED KINGDOM ON IRAN'S INDISCRIMINATE ATTACKS AGAINST COUNTRIES IN THE REGION**

“The leaders of France, Germany and the United Kingdom express their dismay at the indiscriminate and disproportionate missile attacks launched by Iran against countries in the region, including those that were not involved in the initial military operations by the United States and Israel. Iran's reckless attacks have targeted our close allies and threaten our military personnel and civilians across the region.

We call on Iran to immediately cease these reckless attacks. We will take steps to defend our interests and those of our allies in the region, potentially by enabling necessary and proportionate defensive actions to destroy Iran's ability to launch missiles and drones at their source. We have agreed to work together with the United States and regional allies on this issue.”Source: French Presidency, Elysee (translated from English).

By emphasising that Iran's strikes threaten “our military personnel and civilians across the region”, the E3 leaders implicitly include French sailors in Abu Dhabi, German and British crews deployed in maritime security missions, and European expatriates scattered across the Gulf. The reference to “necessary and proportionate defensive actions” is carefully weighed: it stops short of endorsing any new wave of offensive operations but clearly signals that Europe is prepared to support measures aimed at neutralising launch platforms that directly endanger its forces and allied capitals. In practical terms, this could mean sharing intelligence, providing air defence assets, or politically covering targeted interceptions of missiles and drones before they reach populated areas or strategic facilities.

Such an escalation inevitably raises the question of whether the shock waves will stop at the borders of the Middle East or gradually draw in other powers, from Europe to China and Russia, reviving fears of a broader confrontation that some already describe as the embryo of a “world war”. For the moment, the main battlefield remains regional, but every new strike, every new statement from Washington, Moscow, Beijing or Brussels tightens the web of alliances and counter alliances that could one day shift the centre of gravity of this crisis towards the European continent itself. We will continue to monitor these developments closely and to publish, step by step, our analyses and observations as reliable information becomes available, in order to help readers understand not only what is happening on the ground, but also what this evolving conflict reveals about the balance of power in the twenty first century...To Be Continued../

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