

Beat: Politics

FRENCH PRES. MACRON MET WITH UKRAINIAN OFFICIALS AT ELYSEE PALACE TODAY 31st JAN

TO ASSURE THEM DETERMINATION & SUPPORT

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USPA NEWS - French President, Emmanuel MACRON will meet successively with the President of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine Mr. Ruslan STEFANCHUK, then with the Ukrainian Minister of Defense Mr. Oleksiy REZNIKOV, this Tuesday, January 31, 2023 at the Elysee Palace. The President of the Rada is on an official visit to Paris at the invitation of the President of the National Assembly Mrs. Yaël BRAUN-PIVET. The Head of State made a point of personally meeting President STEFANCHUK on this occasion, in order to assure him of his determination to continue his commitment alongside Ukraine.

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The Minister of Defense was invited on an official visit by his French counterpart, Mr. Sébastien LECORNU, Minister of the Armed Forces. The Head of State will receive him at the Elysée Palace in order to reiterate his full support for Ukraine in its fight against the Russian invasion, and to recall France's readiness to meet the needs of the Ukrainian armed forces. Source: Elysee, French Presidency

THE DELIVERY OF FIGHTER PLANES AND TANKS "LECLERC" TO UKRAINE IS NOT EXCLUDED, BUT ONLY UNDER CERTAIN CONDITIONS

The purpose of this meeting is "to reiterate its full support for Ukraine in its fight against the Russian invasion and to recall France's readiness to meet the needs of the Ukrainian armed forces", specifies the press release. French Minister for the Armed Forces Sébastien Lecornu is also due to meet his Ukrainian counterpart during the day.

President Macron, who had visited the Netherlands in The Hague the day before, where he was received by the Dutch PM, Mark Rutte, had replied to the press there that a possible dispatch of combat planes to Kyiv, or Leclerc tanks, was not excluded, but under certain conditions, "there are criteria" before any decision: a "request formulated" by Ukraine, that it "not be escalatory" and that "it does not come to weaken the capacity of the French army to protect its own ground".

Indeed, on this occasion, the two French and Dutch Heads of State discussed the preparation of the Extraordinary European Council of February 9 and 10, in particular on support for Ukraine in the face of Russian aggression. and on strengthening the European Union's industrial policy. The meeting also focused on the deepening of bilateral relations and cooperation, following on from the Franco-Dutch consultations of March 9, 2022.

Source: Elysee, French Presidency, Press Conference, The Hague, 30 January 2023

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