

France Expands Executive War Powers



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France expands executive emergency powers for war. A party co-founded by a former SS officer stands to inherit them.

Details. France's government has [advanced](#) an update to the Military Programming Law, creating a new "national security alert state" that would allow the executive to rapidly expand its powers during a "major security crisis."

- ▶ The law [would](#) allow the government to bypass administrative barriers, accelerate military infrastructure projects, requisition resources, and facilitate the deployment of French and allied troops. Although largely [framed](#) around the possibility of war with Russia, the criteria for declaring such a crisis remain vague.
- ▶ Macron's government and the far-right National Rally both [voted](#) in favour of the law. While LFI, the Greens, and "Communists" formally voted against, their criticism amounted to little more than complaints that the emergency trigger criteria were [too loosely defined](#). Left-wing deputies were also notably absent during the vote itself, with only [17](#) bothering to vote against it.

Context. Current polling suggests the far-right National Rally [could](#) win the 2027 presidential elections, meaning these expanded emergency powers may soon fall into even more reactionary hands. Although National Rally previously [held](#) more anti-NATO and pro-Russian positions, it has largely abandoned them, and now supports intensifying France's "war economy" policies and militarisation.

- ▶ National Rally was co-founded by Jean-Marie Le Pen alongside a [Waffen-SS veteran](#). Le Pen himself had served as an intelligence officer in Algeria, work he later [described](#) as resembling that of "an SS officer and a Gestapo agent."
- ▶ France and Germany have both sharply accelerated militarisation in recent years, including expanded rearmament programmes, "[voluntary](#)" conscription, new [nuclear](#) and missile projects, and proposals for broader European [nuclear protection](#), as both states attempt to position themselves as leading powers in a remilitarised Europe.
- ▶ Europe had already been militarising for years, but these efforts accelerated sharply as relations with the United States worsened over [disputes](#) such as Greenland, [trade tensions](#), and differing [approaches](#) to conflicts like Iran.