

## **Italy To Hosts High-Stakes G7 Summit Amid Geopolitical Tensions, and Looming Goeconomic Challenges**

From June 13-15, the city of Borgo Egnazia in Apulia, Italy, will host the highly anticipated G7 summit, a gathering of global significance. This influential event will bring together the leaders of the seven-member nations – Italy, Canada, France, Germany, Japan, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America – along with the President of the European Council and the President of the European Commission, representing the European Union. The outcome of the last G7 summit in 2023 focussed on climate, health, food security, and technology. However, the war in Ukraine, nuclear nonproliferation, and economic security were the most prominent. This year the Russia-Ukraine war is expected to dominate the G7 agenda, as the United States advocates for a \$50 billion loan to Ukraine funded by frozen Russian assets in the West. However, this proposal has yet to achieve consensus among G7 members.

China also remains a significant topic of discussion, with the United States and France pushing for steep tariffs on Chinese imports and for the G7 communique to express common concerns about Beijing's industrial overcapacity. Italy has outlined an ambitious and comprehensive agenda for this summit, with priorities including addressing the ongoing conflicts in Ukraine and Gaza, redefining the G7's relationship with developing nations and emerging economies – particularly in the Indo-Pacific region – and tackling the challenges and opportunities presented by artificial intelligence.

In a significant move, Italy has extended invitations to 12 additional heads of state to participate in the summit, including Brazil's President Lula da Silva, Argentina's President Javier Milei, Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, Jordan's King Abdullah, Saudi Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman, and Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky. As high-stakes events such as the G7 summit have the attendance of delegates from around the world, a maximum-security area covering the entire resort of Borgo Egnazia has been established as a 'red zone.' For security reasons, private vehicles will not be allowed to access the Summit venue, with specially designated vehicles primarily used for transportation within the red zone.

It is expected that anticipated disruption will be observed during the G7 summit such as climate activist demonstrations, Pro-Palestinian protests, and heightened incidental security risks, underscoring the complex challenges and global implications of the discussions taking place.