

Former Green politician Joschka Fischer calls for new nuclear weapons in Europe

"The EU needs its own nuclear deterrence," says Joschka Fischer. The world has changed, according to the former Foreign Minister. After all, Kremlin leader Putin does not shy away from nuclear blackmail. 03.12.2023, 11.39 a.m.



Joschka Fischer: "We have to restore our deterrent ability" Photo: Kay Nietfeld / dpa

Former Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer (Greens) has called on Europe to rearm. "We must restore our deterrent capacity," said Fischer "Zeit Online." Although he does not like the idea of it "at all", there is no way around it: "As long as we have a neighbor Russia who follows Putin's imperial ideology, we cannot do without deterring this Russia."

When asked whether the deterrent also includes Germany's own nuclear weapons, he said: "This is indeed the most difficult question. Should the Federal Republic possess nuclear weapons? No. Europe? Yes. The EU needs its own nuclear deterrence." Because: The world has changed, and Russia's President Vladimir Putin is also working with nuclear blackmail.

Fischer demands investments from the federal government for an upgrade with conventional weapons. However, this cannot be achieved with a debt brake and balanced budgets. Fischer ended his political career in 2006 and has been working as a consultant and lobbyist ever since.

Hope for "Homo sapiens"

Since its foundation, the Greens have been closely linked to resistance to nuclear armament. He hopes, Fischer continues, that America and Europe

remain connected. "But what will happen if Donald Trump is re-elected? Even with regard to this scenario, Europe must seriously ask itself the question."

A reference to the arsenals of the Western European nuclear powers of France and Great Britain in response to the changed situation would be "too simple and too short-sighted," the 75-year-old continued. "However, the priority is first of all the deterrent ability in the conventional area."

Hope in the current crisis situation gives him "Homo sapiens": "When it gets really hot at all, we have always moved. Then we were always intelligent enough to find solutions."

"I am ashamed of our country"

In the interview, Fischer also commented on the increased attacks on Jews in Germany since the Hamas attack on Israel. "Jewish parents must be afraid to send their children to school. Apartments of Jews are smeared with stars of David. Anti-Israeli and anti-Jewish slogans are on the walls of houses," he said. "I am ashamed of our country." What since the 7th October had happened in Germany, he would not have thought possible.

With regard to pro-Palestinian demonstrations in Germany, Fischer said: "Our history weighs heavily. We must leave no doubt that we support the State of Israel." As a young man after the Six-day War in 1967, he himself also had compassion for the Palestinians and felt that they were oppressed by Israel, but never questioned Israel's right to exist.

As Foreign Minister, he experienced how incredibly difficult it is to explain the Israeli position to young people in particular. "When you see people in the West Bank throwing stones at Israeli soldiers, who in turn are equipped with state-of-the-art weapons, you get the impression that this is unfair," he said. But Israel cannot afford weakness. "Otherwise it will no longer exist."