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# Summary

## The 2014 Ukraine crisis

In November 2013 the Ukrainian government of pro-Russian President Viktor Yanukovych decided not to sign a planned Association Agreement with the European Union and demonstrations ensued in the capital Kyiv. The ‘Euromaidan’ demonstrations turned violent in early 2014 and, in February that year, some European foreign ministers mediated a compromise, involving a unity government and early elections.

After the collapse of a power-sharing agreement on 22 February 2014, President Yanukovych disappeared from Ukraine and a new government was installed by the Ukrainian parliament.

Later that month unidentified military figures, widely thought in the West to be Russian personnel (this was later confirmed), surrounded the airports in Crimea, a majority-Russian peninsula in Ukraine and the Crimean autonomous assembly was taken over by pro-Russian forces. In March 2014 a declaration of independence was issued by the assembly and a subsequent referendum on union with Russia was held.

Since then, Russia has maintained its control over Crimea and supported pro-Russian separatist forces who also took control of parts of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions of eastern Ukraine (the Donbas) in 2014.

Fighting between Russian-supported separatists and Ukrainian government forces has continued in the Donbas for the last eight years despite the negotiation of the Minsk Agreements in 2014/2015 which called for a ceasefire, the withdrawal of all foreign armed groups and constitutional reform recognising the special status of Donetsk and Luhansk.

## Current conflict

On 24 February 2022 Russia launched military action in Ukraine, with forces crossing into the country from Belarus in the north, Russia in the east and Crimea in the south.

President Putin said it was a “special military operation” intended to protect the people of the Donbas and to “demilitarise and denazify Ukraine”. He

denied that Russia planned to occupy Ukrainian territory or to “impose anything on anyone by force”.

For the last year Russian forces have, however, been conducting a full-scale assault on the country. In early October 2022 Russia signed annexation treaties recognising Donetsk, Luhansk, Kherson and Zaporizhzhia as part of the Russian Federation, even though those regions are not totally under Russian control.

Ukraine, with Western military assistance, has been conducting a major counteroffensive and has made territorial gains.

Both sides are now preparing for new spring offensives. [Ukraine has vowed to retake all its sovereign territory](#), including Crimea which was annexed by Russia in 2014. The Kremlin has said that [the annexed regions will be with Russia forever](#).

Protracted conflict therefore appears the most likely outcome unless both sides can be persuaded to return to the negotiating table.

## Purpose of this paper

This paper provides a timeline of the major events that happened in the conflict in Ukraine from November 2013 to the present.

This paper will be regularly updated as the conflict continues.

# November 2013 – April 2014: Annexation of Crimea

## Key events

**21 November 2013:** Ukraine's President Yanukovych suspends trade and association talks with the EU, opting to revive economic ties with Russia.

Protests begin in Kyiv's Independence Square (Maidan).

**6 December 2013:** President Yanukovych meets Russian President Putin for talks, to lay the ground for a new “strategic partnership” between the two countries.

**December 2013 – February 2014:** Anti-government protests continue, with some turning violent.

**21 February 2014:** President Yanukovych and opposition leaders sign an EU-mediated peace pact that includes plans for presidential elections before the end of the year.

**22 February 2014:** Ukraine's parliament votes to impeach President Yanukovych and he flees the country.

**27 February 2014:** Dozens of pro-Russia gunmen seize government buildings in the Ukrainian peninsula of Crimea and raise the Russian flag. The move comes a day after President Putin put Russia's military on high alert.

**1 March 2014:** Russia's parliament approves President Putin's request for Russian forces to be used in Ukraine.

**21 March 2014:** President Putin signs a law formalising Russia's takeover of Crimea from Ukraine.

21 November 2013	Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovych <a href="#">orders the suspension of trade and association talks</a> with the European Union, opting to revive economic ties with Russia.
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Several hundred Ukrainians gather in Kyiv's Independence Square (Maidan) to protest.

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22 November 2013	Jailed Ukrainian opposition leader Yulia Tymoshenko <u>urges Ukrainians to protest</u> against the government's decision not to sign a trade deal with the EU.
24 November 2013	An estimated <u>100,000 people rally in Kyiv</u> against the government. Meanwhile, a pro-government rally attracts 10,000 people.
25 November 2013	Ukrainian police <u>fire tear gas</u> at demonstrators, saying they had been pelted with objects.  Yulia Tymoshenko, in prison, begins a hunger strike in solidarity with the protestors.
29 November 2013	At an EU summit in the Lithuanian capital, Vilnius, President Yanukovych <u>refuses to sign</u> the association agreement.
30 November 2013	Thousands of Ukrainians stage <u>fresh protests</u> in Kyiv's Independence Square. 2,000 riot police are deployed around the square, but only small scuffles are reported.
1 December 2013	An estimated <u>300,000 people protest</u> in Kyiv and besiege the president's office. Dozens are injured as police respond with tear gas, batons and flash grenades.
6 December 2013	President Yanukovych <u>meets</u> Russian President Vladimir Putin for talks in Sochi, to lay the ground for a new "strategic partnership" between the two countries.
8 December 2013	Hundreds of thousands of people rally in Kyiv, in the <u>largest protest</u> yet. A statue of Lenin is toppled in the city centre.
13 December 2013	President Yanukovych <u>holds roundtable discussions</u> with opposition leaders, but no breakthrough in the crisis is reached.

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15 December 2013	The EU <u>freezes attempts to revive a political and trade pact</u> with Ukraine. 200,000 people rally in Kyiv.
17 December 2013	Presidents Putin and Yanukovych hold talks in Moscow. The Russian president <u>agrees</u> to buy \$15 billion of Ukrainian debt to allow the former Soviet republic to return to economic growth.
24 December 2013	Ukraine <u>receives</u> the first \$3 billion tranche of Russia's bailout.
12 January 2014	Thousands of Ukrainians <u>gather</u> in Kyiv's main square to demand closer relations with the EU, reviving the movement after a Christmas and New Year lull.
17 January 2014	President Yanukovych <u>signs into force</u> a set of tough new laws that ban virtually all forms of anti-government protests, despite criticism from Western governments.
19 January 2014	Hundreds of thousands of Ukrainians gather in central Kyiv, <u>defying the ban on protests</u> .  The protest later turns violent, with hundreds of activists storming a police cordon, attacking riot police with sticks and chains in an attempt to push their way towards the Ukrainian parliament. The police respond with stun grenades, leaving a dozen protesters injured.
22 January 2014	<u>Two protesters are killed</u> in clashes with police; the first fatalities since anti-government protests began in November 2013.  A <u>three-hour meeting</u> between President Yanukovych and the three main political opposition leaders ends without a deal.
26 January 2014	President Yanukovych <u>offers key government posts</u> to opposition leaders and suggests making a number of legislative and

constitutional amendments during a special emergency session of parliament.

The opposition reacts cautiously, rejecting these initial proposals but indicating they are open to further negotiations, including early elections.

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27 January 2014	Ukraine's justice minister <a href="#">threatens to declare a state of emergency</a> after four government buildings, including the city hall in central Kyiv, are taken by protesters.
28 January 2014	Ukraine's Prime Minister <a href="#">Mykola Azarov resigns</a> .  The Ukrainian parliament votes to annul the anti-protest legislation.
30 January 2014	President Yanukovych <a href="#">announces</a> that he will take sick leave due to an acute respiratory illness and high fever.  In a <a href="#">written statement</a> , the UK's Minister for Europe urges the government and opposition in Ukraine to find a compromise acceptable to all sides.
31 January 2014	Still on sick leave, President Yanukovych <a href="#">signs into law a conditional amnesty</a> for those detained in the unrest.
2 February 2014	President Yanukovych <a href="#">returns to work</a> after four days' sick leave.  An estimated <a href="#">30,000 protesters gather in Kyiv</a> , renewing calls for the president to step down.
7 February 2014	The United States <a href="#">suggests</a> Russia is responsible for leaking a <a href="#">recording</a> of US diplomats discussing how to shape a new government in Kyiv. Russia accuses the United States of trying to foment a coup in Ukraine.
14 February 2014	Russia <a href="#">accuses</a> the European Union of seeking to create a “sphere of influence” on its borders by pressing Ukraine to choose closer

ties with the bloc at the expense of relations with Moscow.

All 234 protesters arrested since December 2021 are released, although tensions remain.

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18 February 2014	At least <u>22 people are killed and more than 200 seriously injured</u> as protesters clash with riot police in the worst violence since demonstrations began.
19 February 2014	The West <u>threatens sanctions</u> after the death toll rises to 26.  President Yanukovych denounces the bloodshed as an attempted coup.
20 February 2014	<u>Dozens are killed</u> in fresh clashes in Kyiv, the city's worst day of violence for 70 years.  The foreign ministers of Germany, France and Poland meet with President Yanukovych, hoping to agree a roadmap with the Ukrainian government and opposition.
21 February 2014	President Yanukovych and opposition leaders <u>sign an EU-mediated peace pact</u> that includes plans for presidential elections before the end of the year.
22 February 2014	Ukraine's parliament <u>votes to impeach</u> President Yanukovych, who flees his Kyiv office, denouncing what <u>he says is a coup</u> .  Yulia Tymoshenko is released from custody and urges the opposition to continue their protests.
23 February 2014	<u>Russia recalls its ambassador</u> to Ukraine over what it describes as the deteriorating situation in the country.  Ukraine's newly appointed interim president, Alexander Turchynov, says the country will focus on closer integration with the EU.

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24 February 2014	<p>Ukraine <a href="#">issues an arrest warrant</a> for President Yanukovych, on charges of “mass murder” of protesters.</p> <p>Russia declares the situation in Ukraine a “real threat” to its interests. Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev <a href="#">accuses</a> Ukraine’s interim leaders of taking power through “armed mutiny”.</p>
26 February 2014	<p>Ukraine’s acting president <a href="#">announces his cabinet</a>, which includes a number of key figures in the protest movement.</p>
	<p>Presidential elections are set for 25 May.</p>
	<p>Russia puts its <a href="#">military on high alert</a> and President Putin orders major military exercises, as concerns grow about unrest in Ukraine’s Crimean peninsula.</p>
27 February 2014	<p>Dozens of pro-Russia <a href="#">gunmen seize government buildings in Crimea</a> and raise the Russian flag.</p>
	<p>Ukraine’s interim government summons Russia’s envoy and <a href="#">warns its neighbour</a> against “military aggression”. Acting president Oleksandr Turchynov warns Russian forces not to venture out from their naval base in Crimea.</p>
28 February 2014	<p>Armed men take control of two airports in Crimea as <a href="#">Russia is accused</a> of orchestrating a “military invasion and occupation”.</p>
	<p>Ousted President Viktor Yanukovych <a href="#">resurfaces</a> in the southern Russian city of Rostov-on-Don, denouncing the “bandit coup” in Kyiv, and reiterates that he remains the legitimate president of Ukraine. He calls on Russia to act decisively, saying he is “surprised” by President Putin’s restraint.</p>
1 March 2014	<p>Russia’s <a href="#">parliament approves</a> President Putin’s request for Russian forces to be used in Ukraine. The Kremlin says the request was submitted “in connection with the</p>

extraordinary situation in Ukraine and the threat to the lives of Russian citizens”.

UK Foreign Secretary William Hague [speaks](#) to Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov to urge steps to calm the situation and summons the Russian Ambassador to register the UK Government’s deep concerns.

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3 March 2014	Western leaders issue a <a href="#">joint statement</a> condemning Russia’s “clear violation of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine” and committing to supporting Ukraine in its efforts to restore unity, stability and political and economic health.
4 March 2014	President Putin <a href="#">announces an end to military exercises</a> in western Russia and orders the troops back to base.  He <a href="#">rules out</a> a Russian war with Ukraine, but reserves the right to use force “as a last resort”.
5 March 2014	Russia <a href="#">rebuffs</a> calls to withdraw troops from Crimea, saying “self-defence” forces are not under its command.
6 March 2014	EU leaders <a href="#">hold an emergency summit</a> to address the Ukraine crisis.  Crimea’s pro-Russia regional government <a href="#">votes to join Russia</a> and announces it will hold a referendum on 16 March to determine whether the region should officially join Russia.
8 March 2014	<a href="#">Warning shots are fired</a> as a team of international military observers is turned away from entering Crimea.  The Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) reports no injuries.
9 March 2014	The UK Prime Minister David Cameron <a href="#">calls</a> President Putin to discuss the situation in

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Ukraine and urges him to de-escalate the situation.

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12 March 2014	US President Barack Obama <a href="#">welcomes</a> Ukraine's interim prime minister to the White House and pledges to “stand with Ukraine” in its dispute with Russia.
	G7 leaders <a href="#">issue a statement</a> calling on Russia to cease all efforts to change the status of Crimea.
16 March 2014	Crimea's secession referendum on joining Russia is <a href="#">backed by over 95% of voters</a> , officials say.
17 March 2014	The EU and US <a href="#">impose travel bans and asset freezes</a> on several officials from Russia and Ukraine over the Crimea referendum.  The UK Government <a href="#">refuses to recognise</a> the Crimea referendum or its outcome as being legal or legitimate, and “condemns in the strongest terms Russia’s flagrant disregard of Ukraine’s sovereignty and territorial integrity”.
18 March 2014	President Vladimir Putin and the leaders of Crimea <a href="#">sign a bill</a> to absorb the peninsula into Russia.
21 March 2014	President Putin <a href="#">signs the law</a> formalising Russia's takeover of Crimea from Ukraine, despite fresh sanctions from the EU and the US.
24 March 2014	Russia is <a href="#">expelled</a> from the Group of Eight (G8).
27 March 2014	The UN General Assembly <a href="#">votes 100–11</a> against recognising the Crimea referendum result, with 58 countries abstaining.  Following the vote, UK Foreign Secretary William Hague <a href="#">says</a> : “The result reinforces the fundamental principles upon which the UN was founded: principles of territorial integrity and of the non-use of force. President Putin

should take notice of this clear and resounding message and work together with all parties to de-escalate the situation.”

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28 March 2014	US President Barack Obama <u>urges</u> Russia to “move back its troops” on Ukraine's border and lower tensions.  Russia is believed to have amassed a force of several thousand troops close to Ukraine's eastern border.
7 April 2014	Pro-Russian <u>protesters seize regional government buildings</u> in the Ukrainian cities of Donetsk, Luhansk and Kharkiv, calling for a referendum on independence by 11 May.
15 April 2014	Ukraine's acting president, Alexander Turchynov, <u>announces</u> the start of an “anti-terrorist operation” against pro-Russian separatists. It quickly stalls.
17 April 2014	At talks in Geneva, Russia, Ukraine, the US and the EU say they have <u>agreed steps</u> to “de-escalate” the crisis in eastern Ukraine.  Three people are killed when Ukrainian security forces fend off a raid on a base in Mariupol, the first violent deaths in the east.
18 April 2014	UK Foreign Secretary William Hague <u>welcomes yesterday's agreement</u> on the next steps in Ukraine and urges quick progress be made.  He also announces a further £1 million to support the OSCE monitoring mission.
22 April 2014	Ukraine's acting president <u>calls for the resumption of military operations</u> against pro-Russian separatists in the east of the country, claiming two of his party's supporters had been “tortured to death”, in a further blow to an unravelling international peace plan.

# May 2015 – October 2021

## Key events

**12 May 2014:** Pro-Russia separatists in Ukraine's easternmost areas, Donetsk and Luhansk, announce landslide victories in referendums on "self-rule". Ukraine and Western countries condemn the vote.

**25 May 2014:** Petro Poroshenko is elected president of Ukraine.

**14 June 2014:** Pro-Russia separatists shoot down a military transport plane in eastern Ukraine, killing all 49 Ukrainian service personnel on board.

**27 June 2014:** The EU signs a landmark partnership agreement with Ukraine.

**17 July 2014:** Malaysia Airlines flight MH17 is shot down over eastern Ukraine with the loss of 298 lives. A 15-month investigation by the Dutch Safety Board (DSB) later finds the plane was hit by a Russian-made Buk missile.

**5 September 2014:** Ukraine's government and pro-Russia rebels sign a truce in Minsk (referred to as the first Minsk Agreement) to end almost five months of fighting. The ceasefire collapses within days.

**24 January 2015:** A series of rocket attacks leave 30 people dead and many more injured in the city of Mariupol in eastern Ukraine.

**12 February 2015:** The second Minsk Agreement is signed.

**9 July 2016:** NATO and Ukraine sign a Comprehensive Assistance Package.

**8 June 2017:** The Ukrainian Parliament votes to restore NATO membership as the country's strategic foreign policy objective.

**1 September 2017:** Ukraine's association agreement with the European Union enters into force.

**15 May 2018:** President Putin opens a 12-mile bridge between the Russian mainland and Crimea, tightening Russia's hold over the annexed peninsula.

**20 November 2018:** The UK Government joins calls for Russia to stop delaying or preventing access for ships to the Sea of Azov. Restrictions on freedom of passage have been accompanied by an increase in Russia's military presence in the sea.

**21 February 2019:** An amendment to Ukraine's constitution, setting NATO membership as a strategic foreign and security policy, enters into force.

**21 April 2019:** Volodymyr Zelenskyy is elected president of Ukraine in a landslide victory.

**7 September 2019:** Russia and Ukraine exchange dozens of prisoners captured in the wake of Moscow's annexation of Crimea and intervention in the Donbas. It is the first prisoner exchange since 2014.

**12 June 2020:** Ukraine is granted NATO Enhanced Opportunity Partner status.

**14 September 2020:** President Zelenskyy approves Ukraine's new National Security Strategy, with the aim of joining NATO.

**6 April 2021:** Russia announces the start of mass military drills, raising tensions with Ukraine amid Western concern over the risk of renewed fighting.

**14 April 2021:** Ukraine's defence minister says 110,000 Russian troops are massing on the border in 56 battalion-sized tactical groups.

2 May 2014                    More than [30 people are killed](#) in violent clashes in the Black Sea city of Odessa, as pro-Ukrainian activists storm a building occupied by protesters in favour of closer ties with Russia.

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3 May 2014                    In response to the violence in Odessa, UK Foreign Secretary [William Hague calls](#) on all parties to work to restore calm and law and order across Ukraine.

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11 May 2014	“Self-rule” <a href="#">independence referendums are held</a> in Ukraine’s easternmost areas, Donetsk and Luhansk. Ukraine calls the vote a “criminal farce” and Western countries also condemn the vote.
12 May 2014	Pro-Russia separatists in Donetsk and Luhansk <a href="#">announce landslide victories</a> in the independence referendums.  The head of the de facto electoral commission says 89% of voters in Donetsk and 96% in Luhansk voted for self-rule.
25 May 2014	Pro-European businessman <a href="#">Petro Poroshenko is elected president</a> of Ukraine.
14 June 2014	Pro-Russia separatists <a href="#">shoot down a military transport plane</a> in eastern Ukraine, killing all 49 Ukrainian service personnel on board.  In a statement, Ukraine’s defence ministry says “terrorists” have “cynically and treacherously” fired on the aircraft.
24 June 2014	President Putin asks the upper house of the Russian parliament to <a href="#">revoke its March ruling</a> that permits Russia to use troops on Ukrainian territory.
25 June 2014	The Russian parliament’s upper house agrees President Putin’s request, <a href="#">voting 153-1 in favour</a> of revoking authorisation for military intervention in Ukraine.
27 June 2014	The EU signs a <a href="#">landmark partnership agreement</a> with Ukraine.  President Poroshenko hails the signing as Ukraine’s most historic day since independence in 1991, describing it as a “symbol of faith and unbreakable will”.  He also says he sees the signing as the start of preparations for Ukraine joining the EU.
5 July 2014	Separatist rebels <a href="#">abandon the cities of Sloviansk and Kramatorsk</a> and some smaller

towns, in the north of Donetsk region, to concentrate on the battle for Donetsk city.

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- 17 July 2014      Malaysia Airlines flight MH17, en route from Amsterdam to Kuala Lumpur, is shot down over eastern Ukraine with the loss of 298 lives. A 15-month investigation by the Dutch Safety Board (DSB) later finds [the plane was hit by a Russian-made Buk missile](#).
- 21 July 2014      In a [statement to the House of Commons](#), UK Prime Minister David Cameron says President Putin must use his influence to end the conflict in Ukraine by halting supplies and training for the separatists. The Prime Minister also calls for “proper long-term relationships between Ukraine and Russia; between Ukraine and the European Union; and, above all, between Russia and the European Union, NATO and the wider West.”
- 30 July 2014      The G7 leaders [issue a joint statement](#) on the ongoing situation in Ukraine, condemning Russia’s illegal annexation of Crimea.
- 22 August 2014      A Russian convoy of 260 lorries delivers humanitarian aid to eastern Ukraine, raising suspicion from some in the international community. French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius [warns](#) the convoy “could be a cover for the Russians to install themselves near Luhansk and Donetsk and present us with a fait accompli”.
- 26 August 2014      Ukraine releases [videos of captured Russian troops](#). Russia claims the troops crossed the border “by accident”, but Ukrainian military spokesman Andriy Lysenko says: “This wasn’t a mistake, but a special mission they were carrying out.”
- 1 September 2014      Ukraine says [700 of its men have been taken prisoner](#) as pro-Russia rebels advance in the east.
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5 September 2014	Ukraine's government and pro-Russia rebels in the east <a href="#">sign a truce</a> in Minsk (referred to as the first Minsk Agreement) to end almost five months of fighting.
	The ceasefire deal <a href="#">collapses within days</a> of signing.
24 September 2014	NATO reports a "significant" <a href="#">withdrawal of Russian troops</a> from eastern Ukraine, although some forces still remain.
12 October 2014	President Vladimir Putin <a href="#">orders</a> thousands of Russian troops stationed near the Ukrainian border to return to their bases. Russian media reports 17,600 soldiers on training exercises in the Rostov region would be pulled back.
17 October 2014	The UK Government announces a <a href="#">package of non-lethal equipment</a> to be gifted to Ukraine, in response to a direct request from the General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine.
21 October 2014	New York-based Human Rights Watch suggests both government forces and pro-Russia separatists have used <a href="#">cluster munitions in eastern Ukraine</a> .  Most countries banned cluster munitions under a convention that became international law in 2010, but Ukraine did not sign up to it.
26 October 2014	Pro-Western parties <a href="#">win parliamentary elections</a> in Ukraine.
31 October 2014	In a deal brokered by the EU, <a href="#">Russia agrees to resume gas supplies to Ukraine</a> over the winter. Russia had cut off Ukraine's gas in June as the conflict in eastern Ukraine escalated.
2 November 2014	<a href="#">Pro-Russia separatists hold elections</a> in the two self-proclaimed people's republics in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions in eastern Ukraine. The elections are denounced as "illegitimate" by the West.

3 November 2014	Following the vote, President Poroshenko holds a meeting with his security chiefs and <u>accuses the rebels</u> of jeopardising “the entire peace process”.
11 November 2014	Dutch efforts to salvage wreckage from the Malaysia Airlines MH17 crash site stall as <u>no deal is reached</u> with local rebel groups.
12 November 2014	NATO commander Gen. Philip Breedlove warns Russian military equipment and Russian <u>combat troops have been seen entering Ukraine</u> over several days, saying: "Russian tanks, Russian artillery, Russian air defence systems and Russian combat troops" had been sighted.
24 January 2015	A series of <u>rocket attacks leave 30 people dead</u> and many more injured in the city of Mariupol in eastern Ukraine.  Ukraine blames pro-Russia rebels, but the separatists say Ukrainian forces are behind the attacks.
26 January 2015	In an extraordinary meeting of the NATO-Ukraine Commission, <u>NATO strongly condemns the escalation of violence</u> in eastern Ukraine and urges all parties to continue efforts to achieve a peaceful solution, in full conformity with the Minsk Agreement.
10 February 2015	UK Foreign Secretary Philip Hammond makes a <u>statement</u> in the House of Commons on the situation in Ukraine. He welcomes efforts to achieve a peaceful resolution of the situation in the east of the country, outlines the package of economic sanctions which the EU and the US is imposing on Russia, and provides further detail on other measures being taken by the West.
12 February 2015	Following lengthy peace negotiations (referred to as the Normandy Format) between Russian President Vladimir Putin, Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko, French President Francois Hollande and German

Chancellor Angela Merkel, a [new ceasefire deal for eastern Ukraine is signed](#) in the Belarusian capital Minsk: the second Minsk Agreement.

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15 February 2015	UK Secretary of Defence Michael Fallon responds to an <a href="#">urgent question</a> on the deployment of UK personnel to train Ukrainian forces.  As part of wider UK Government efforts to support Ukraine and ensure a robust international response, the Defence Secretary announces: “UK personnel will now provide to the Ukrainian armed forces medical, logistics, infantry, and intelligence capacity-building training from mid-March.” (Operation Orbital)
23 February 2015	Prime Minister David Cameron <a href="#">announces</a> the UK will provide £15 million in emergency assistance to provide food, blankets, emergency shelter and basic medical supplies to vulnerable and displaced Ukrainians.
3 March 2015	The Prime Minister <a href="#">holds a video conference</a> call with other world leaders to discuss how Europe and the US should work together to enforce the Minsk agreements.
22 March 2015	Marking a year after President Putin signed the decree confirming the illegal annexation of Crimea, the Foreign Secretary again <a href="#">condemns</a> the flagrant breach of Ukrainian and international law and says Russia must return Crimea to Ukraine.
12 October 2015	The Defence secretary issues a <a href="#">written statement</a> updating the House of Commons on the UK’s support to training Ukrainian personnel through Operation Orbital.
21 March 2016	On the second anniversary of Russia’s annexation of Crimea, the Foreign Secretary again <a href="#">calls for Russia to return Crimea to Ukraine</a> and condemns Russia’s continued breach of international law.

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8 July 2016	The Prime Minister <a href="#">meets</a> with Ukrainian President Poroshenko at the NATO Summit in Warsaw and reaffirms the UK's commitment to Ukraine's sovereignty.
9 July 2016	At the NATO Summit in Warsaw, the heads of state and government of the NATO-Ukraine Commission <a href="#">endorse the Comprehensive Assistance Package</a> (CAP) for Ukraine, enhancing NATO's assistance for Ukraine.
8 June 2017	<p>The Ukrainian Parliament votes to restore <a href="#">NATO membership as the country's strategic foreign policy objective</a>.</p> <p>In a statement, the parliament announced it had passed the bill “to amend the Ukrainian laws on national security and internal and foreign policies. The new laws hereby enact Ukraine's commitment to achieve NATO membership strategically by having made it legally binding,”</p>
11 June 2017	Ukraine's <a href="#">association agreement with the EU is ratified</a> by all signatories, promoting deeper political ties, stronger economic links, and respect for common values between the two.
5 July 2017	The Defence Secretary <a href="#">announces</a> the UK has directly trained over 5,000 members of Ukraine's Armed Forces; 1,000 more than initially targeted.
1 September 2017	Ukraine's association agreement with the European Union <a href="#">enters into force</a> .
December 2017	The US, under President Trump's administration, <a href="#">approves the largest commercial sale of lethal arms to Ukraine</a> since 2014, moving beyond the non-lethal military assistance that the Obama administration allowed.
15 May 2018	President Putin <a href="#">opens a 12-mile bridge</a> between the Russian mainland and Crimea,

tightening Russia's hold over the annexed peninsula.

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31 August 2018	Alexander Zakharchenko, the leader of a Kremlin-backed separatist republic in eastern Ukraine is <a href="#">killed in a blast</a> close to his official residence in Donetsk. He had been appointed prime minister of the so-called Donetsk People's Republic (DNR) in November 2014.
20 November 2018	The UK Government joins calls for Russia to stop delaying or preventing <a href="#">access for ships to the Sea of Azov</a> , following a discussion at the EU Foreign Affairs Council. Restrictions on freedom of passage have been accompanied by an increase in Russia's military presence in the sea.
27 November 2018	Foreign Office Minister Alistair Burt responds to an <a href="#">urgent question</a> on Russian action in the sea of Azov and the subsequent declaration of martial law in parts of Ukraine.  He says: "Our position is clear: Russia's actions are not in conformity with the United Nations convention on the law of the sea or the 2003 Russia-Ukraine bilateral agreement, which provides free passage in the sea of Azov, including for military ships."
30 November 2018	The foreign ministers of the G7 countries issue a statement <a href="#">expressing their concern</a> over Russia's actions against Ukraine in the Kerch Strait.
5 January 2019	The <a href="#">Ukrainian Orthodox Church gains formal independence</a> from the Russian Orthodox Church. The Ukrainian church had been under the jurisdiction of the Moscow patriarchate since 1686 and the move is predicted to heighten geopolitical tensions in the region.
21 February 2019	An <a href="#">amendment to Ukraine's constitution</a> , setting NATO membership as a strategic foreign and security policy, enters into force.
18 March 2019	On the fifth anniversary of Russia's annexation of Crimea, UK Foreign Secretary <a href="#">Jeremy Hunt</a>

condemns Russia and says: “The UK will never recognise Russia’s illegal annexation of Crimea and we call on Russia to end their illegitimate control of the peninsula and their attempts to redraw the boundaries of Europe.”

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21 April 2019	Former actor and comedian <u>Volodymyr Zelenskyy defeats Petro Poroshenko in the presidential election</u> , promising to tackle corruption and end the conflict in eastern Ukraine. It is a landslide victory, with Zelenskyy taking over 70% of the votes.
21 July 2019	President Zelenskyy’s Servant of the People party <u>wins a majority of seats in the parliamentary election</u> .
22 August 2019	Prime Minister Boris Johnson <u>calls</u> President Zelenskyy and reiterates the UK’s support in ending the conflict in the Donbas.
7 September 2019	Russia and Ukraine <u>exchange dozens of prisoners</u> captured in the wake of Moscow’s annexation of Crimea and intervention in the Donbas.  Both countries free 35 prisoners as part of the exchange, the first since 2014.  There is controversy, however, over Ukraine’s decision to hand Vladimir Tsemakh over to Moscow, a separatist commander thought to be involved in the downing of Malaysia Airlines MH17 in July 2014.
4 November 2019	The Defence secretary issues a <u>written statement</u> updating the House of Commons on Operation Orbital. UK Armed Forces personnel deployed on Operation Orbital have trained over 17,500 members of the Armed Forces of Ukraine since 2015.
20 March 2020	Ukraine enters its <u>first lockdown</u> to tackle the Covid-19 pandemic.

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9 June 2020	The International Monetary Fund (IMF) <a href="#">approves a \$5bn lifeline</a> to support Ukraine during a pandemic-induced recession.
12 June 2020	<a href="#">Ukraine is granted NATO Enhanced Opportunity Partner (EOP) status</a> . This status is part of NATO's Partnership Interoperability Initiative, which aims to maintain and deepen cooperation between Allies and partners that have made significant contributions to NATO-led operations and missions.
14 September 2020	<a href="#">President Zelenskyy approves</a> Ukraine's new <a href="#">National Security Strategy</a> , which provides for the development of a distinctive partnership with NATO, with the aim of NATO membership.
8 October 2020	On a two-day visit to the UK, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and Prime Minister Boris Johnson <a href="#">sign a landmark Strategic Partnership Agreement</a> , paving the way for stronger cooperation between the UK and Ukraine.
31 December 2020	The UK-Ukraine Political, Free Trade and Strategic Partnership Agreement <a href="#">enters into force</a> .
20 February 2021	President Zelenskyy's government <a href="#">imposes sanctions</a> on several Ukrainian politicians with close ties to Russian President Putin, including political heavyweight Viktor Medvedchuk, the Kremlin's most prominent ally in Ukraine.
20 February 2021	The UK reaffirms its support of Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity, seven years after Russia annexed Crimea.  To mark the seventh anniversary of the annexation, the UK Government <a href="#">announces funding for a new project</a> to improve access to vital services for Ukrainians living in Crimea.
5 April 2021	Prime Minister Boris Johnson <a href="#">speaks</a> to President Zelenskyy and expresses the UK's significant concerns about the recent Russian

military activity on Ukraine's border and in Crimea.

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6 April 2021 Russia [announces the start of mass military drills](#), raising tensions with Ukraine amid Western concern about the risk of renewed fighting.

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14 April 2021 Russia and Ukraine hold simultaneous military drills as NATO foreign and defence ministers began emergency discussions on the massing of Russian troops near the Ukrainian border.  
  
Ukraine's defence minister, Andrii Taran, says [110,000 Russian troops are massing](#) on the border in 56 battalion-sized tactical groups, citing Kyiv's latest intelligence.

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22 April 2021 After weeks of tension over the build-up of Russian troops close to Ukraine's border, Russian Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu announces [Russia will re-deploy its forces back to their home bases by 1 May](#), temporarily averting the crisis.

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2 September 2021 During a visit to the White House, President Zelenskyy presses US President Biden for a [firm commitment to NATO membership](#), but gets little encouragement.

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26 October 2021 Ukraine [uses a Turkish Bayraktar TB2 drone](#) in combat for the first time in eastern Ukraine, angering Russia.

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# Ukraine crisis: November 2021 – 23 February 2022

## Key events

**13 November 2021:** President Zelenskyy says nearly 100,000 Russian troops have massed on the border with Ukraine.

**17 December 2021:** Russia presents a list of security demands in order to defuse the crisis over Ukraine, including a legally binding guarantee that Ukraine will never be accepted as a NATO Member State and that NATO will give up any military activity in eastern Europe and Ukraine.

**22 January 2022:** In a rare reference to intelligence-gathering, the Foreign Office exposes evidence of a plot to install a pro-Russian government in Ukraine.

**24 January 2022:** The US places 8,500 troops on heightened alert to deploy to Europe as NATO reinforces its eastern borders with warships and fighter jets.

**10 February 2022:** Russia launches what is being called its largest military exercise since the Cold War, holding joint manoeuvres with Belarus, close to the Belarus/Ukrainian border.

**21 February 2022:** President Putin recognises the independence of the self-proclaimed Donetsk People's Republic and the Luhansk People's Republic. He then orders Russian troops into the territories for what he describes as “peacekeeping duties”.

13 November 2021 After weeks of increasing numbers of Russian troops massing near the border with Ukraine, President Zelenskyy says nearly 100,000 Russian soldiers are massed by mid-November.

7 December 2021 US President Joe Biden warns Russia of sweeping Western economic sanctions if it

invades Ukraine. In a two-hour virtual meeting with President Putin, Biden voices the “deep concerns of the United States and our European allies about Russia’s escalation of forces surrounding Ukraine”.

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8 December 2021      UK Foreign Secretary Liz Truss [hold talks](#) with her counterpart in Ukraine, Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba, in the face of Russian aggression.

This is the first UK-Ukraine Strategic Dialogue, part of an agreement signed by the Prime Minister and Ukrainian President Zelenskyy during his visit to London a year earlier.

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12 December 2021      G7 Foreign Ministers and the High Representative of the European Union [issue a statement](#) on Russia’s military build-up and aggressive rhetoric towards Ukraine.

The statement calls on Russia to “de-escalate, pursue diplomatic channels, and abide by its international commitments on transparency of military activities”.

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13 December 2021      The [Prime Minister speaks to President Putin](#) and expresses the UK Government’s deep concern over the build-up of Russian forces on Ukraine’s border, and reiterates “the importance of working through diplomatic channels to de-escalate tensions and identify durable solutions”.

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17 December 2021      Russia presents a [highly contentious list of security demands](#) in order to lower tensions in Europe and defuse the crisis over Ukraine, including a legally binding guarantee that Ukraine will never gain NATO membership and NATO will give up any military activity in eastern Europe and Ukraine.

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23 December 2021      The Foreign Secretary [condemns](#) Russia’s “aggressive and inflammatory rhetoric against Ukraine and NATO”, adding: “NATO is a defensive alliance and Ukraine continues to show commendable restraint in the face of Russian provocation and aggression.”

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10 January 2022	US and Russian <a href="#">diplomats hold a day of negotiations</a> in Geneva over the fate of Ukraine. The talks are later described as “useful” and “very professional”, but no progress is made towards resolving fundamental disagreements.
12 January 2022	The NATO-Russia Council <a href="#">meets</a> .
13 January 2022	The OSCE Permanent Council meets, in a pre-planned session and irrespective of the situation in Ukraine. Western allies, including the <a href="#">Head of the UK delegation welcome</a> the proposal to use the OSCE as a forum for revitalised European security talks.
14 January 2022	A <a href="#">massive cyberattack</a> leaves Ukrainian government websites temporarily unavailable.  The websites are hacked with a message in Ukrainian, Russian and Polish, saying Ukrainians’ personal data had been leaked into the public domain.  The message reads, in part: “Be afraid and expect the worst. This is for your past, present and future.”
15 January 2022	UK Defence Secretary Ben Wallace <a href="#">meets</a> Nordic partners amid a backdrop of aggressive Russian behaviour on the border of Ukraine.
22 January 2022	In a rare reference to intelligence-gathering, the Foreign Office exposes evidence of a <a href="#">plot to install a pro-Russian government in Ukraine</a> .  Former Ukrainian MP <a href="#">Yevhen Murayev is identified as being the potential candidate</a> under consideration to lead this pro-Russian government.
24 January 2022	The <a href="#">US places 8,500 troops on heightened alert</a> to deploy to Europe as NATO reinforces its eastern borders with warships and fighter jets, amid growing fears of a possible

“lightning” attack by Russia to seize the Ukrainian capital, Kyiv.

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25 January 2022	In a <a href="#">statement</a> to the House of Commons, on the UK’s response to the situation in Ukraine, the Prime Minister outlines several measures being considered. These include imposing heavy economic sanctions on Russia.
26 January 2022	The US and NATO <a href="#">deliver separate written responses</a> to Russia’s security demands. The US rules out Russia’s demand to halt NATO’s eastward expansion, but says it is open to talks on arms control.
28 January 2022	As President Biden announces additional US troop deployments to eastern Europe, President Putin says the US and NATO have not addressed Moscow’s main security demands.  The Kremlin lists <a href="#">Russia’s principal concerns</a> as avoiding NATO expansion, not deploying offensive weapons near Russia’s borders and returning NATO military capabilities and infrastructure to how they were before former Warsaw Pact states in Eastern Europe joined the alliance. Russia also seeks guarantees that Ukraine will be permanently barred from joining NATO.
31 January 2022	In a <a href="#">statement</a> to the House of Commons, Foreign Secretary Liz Truss updates Members on what the UK Government is doing to tackle Russia’s aggression against Ukraine.  The Foreign Secretary announces the UK is supplying Ukraine with defensive, anti-tank missiles, and deploying a training team of British personnel. 21,000 members of the Ukrainian army have already been trained through Operation Orbital.  The UK will also increase investment in Ukraine’s future, ramping up support for trade up to £3.5 billion, including £1.7 billion to boost Ukraine’s naval capability.

1 February 2022 Prime Minister Boris Johnson and President Zelenskyy hold a [joint press conference](#) in Kyiv.

The Prime Minister [emphasises](#) the UK’s “unwavering commitment to Ukraine’s sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity within its internationally recognised borders”.

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2 February 2022 The US [announces](#) it will send an additional 2,000 soldiers to Europe and reposition a further 1,000 from Germany to Romania, to ensure the “robust defence” of European NATO members amid the ongoing impasse between Russia and Ukraine.

Pentagon spokesperson John Kirby says: “These movements are unmistakable signals to the world that we stand ready to reassure our NATO allies and deter and defend against any aggression.”

The UK Prime Minister [speaks](#) to Russian President Putin and expresses his deep concern about Russia’s current hostile activity on the Ukrainian border, and stresses any further Russian incursion into Ukrainian territory would be a “tragic miscalculation”.

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4 February 2022 Meeting at the start of the Winter Olympics in Beijing, Presidents Xi Jinping of China and Vladimir Putin of Russia [sign a joint statement](#) calling on the West to “abandon the ideologised approaches of the cold war”.

In a joint statement released by the Kremlin, Putin and Xi call on NATO to rule out expansion in eastern Europe, denounce the formation of security blocs in the Asia Pacific region, and criticise the Aukus trilateral security pact between the US, UK and Australia.

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7 February 2022 French President Emmanuel Macron meets President Putin for [lengthy talks](#) at the Kremlin, aimed at preventing a Russian attack on Ukraine. Macron warns the two

sides need to work quickly to avoid the risk of an escalation.

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8 February 2022	<p>Following a meeting with President Zelenskyy in Kyiv, President Macron says the standoff between Russia and Ukraine could take <a href="#"><u>months to resolve</u></a>.</p> <p>Meanwhile, six Russian warships and a submarine pass through the Dardanelles strait, heading towards the Black Sea from the Mediterranean. Russia's Defence Ministry describes the deployment as <a href="#"><u>a pre-planned movement of military resources</u></a>.</p>
9 February 2022	<p>President Biden tells Americans still in Ukraine to leave as soon as possible, amid fears of a Russian invasion. He <a href="#"><u>warns</u></a>: “Things could go crazy quickly.”</p>
10 February 2022	<p>Russia launches what is being called its largest military exercise since the Cold War, holding joint manoeuvres with Belarus, close to the Belarus/Ukrainian border.</p> <p>Russia's Defence Ministry <a href="#"><u>says</u></a> the exercise will continue until 20 February and includes 30,000 personnel, warplanes, missile launchers and live-fire exercises, with a focus on “suppressing and repelling external aggression during a defensive operation.”</p> <p>The White House denounces the operation as yet another escalation of tensions along the Ukraine border.</p> <p>The UK Prime Minister <a href="#"><u>travels</u></a> to Brussels and Warsaw, calling on international partners to demonstrate their solidarity with those NATO allies who will bear the brunt of Russian aggression.</p> <p>During a visit to Moscow, the UK Foreign Secretary <a href="#"><u>meets</u></a> her Russian counterpart, Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, and condemns Russia's build-up of forces on the border with Ukraine.</p>

11 February 2022      UK Defence Secretary Ben Wallace [holds talks](#) with his Russian counterpart, the Minister of Defence of the Russian Federation, General of the Army Sergei Shoigu. This is the first time the two nations' defence ministers have met since General Shoigu visited London in 2013, and the first time a British Defence Secretary has visited Moscow since 2001.

The Prime Minister [holds a virtual meeting](#) with the leaders of the US, Canada, Italy, Poland, Romania, France, Germany, the European Council, the European Commission and NATO. The leaders pledge to redouble diplomatic efforts in the coming days to de-escalate the Russia-Ukraine crisis.

The UK Government updates its [travel advice to Ukraine](#), advising British nationals against all travel to Ukraine. British nationals currently in Ukraine are urged to leave immediately while commercial means are still available.

In an interview with NBC News, US President Biden again [tells](#) American citizens to leave Ukraine, saying there are no plans for a military operation to rescue them.

It is reported that Russia has now [amassed some 140,000 troops](#) close to the border with Ukraine and in annexed Crimea.

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14 February 2022      Russia's ambassador to the EU [says](#) Moscow would be within its rights to launch a "counterattack" if it felt it needed to protect Russian citizens living in eastern Ukraine.

G7 Finance Ministers [meet](#) to discuss the situation in Ukraine and issue a statement "supporting the ongoing efforts to urgently identify a diplomatic path towards de-escalation".

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15 February 2022      President Putin [confirms](#) a "partial" drawdown of Russian forces near the Ukrainian border, in a step that could begin a de-escalation of tensions. However, NATO

Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg says there is no immediate sign of a withdrawal.

The Duma, Russia's lower house of parliament, votes to ask President Putin to recognise the Donetsk People's Republic and Luhansk People's Republic as independent.

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16 February 2022	In a “Unity Day” holiday created earlier in the week by President Zelenskyy, Ukrainians <u>raise national flags and play the country's anthem</u> to show unity against fears of a Russian invasion that Western powers say could be imminent.
17 February 2022	Addressing a UN Security Council meeting, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken says <u>Russia is preparing an invasion of Ukraine</u> “in the coming days” and that there is no evidence it is withdrawing any troops.  Russia <u>expels</u> the US deputy chief of mission (DCM) to Russia, Bart Gorman, the US's second most senior diplomat in Moscow. The US State Department <u>describes</u> the move as “an escalatory step”.
	UK Foreign Secretary Liz Truss <u>criticises</u> the Duma's request for President Putin to recognise the Ukrainian regions of Donetsk and Luhansk as independent, saying it shows a “ <u>flagrant disregard</u> ” for Russia's peace process commitments.
	The Defence Secretary, Ben Wallace, <u>announces</u> a substantial UK contribution to NATO's uplift in Eastern Europe, doubling the number of personnel in Estonia and sending additional equipment, including tanks and armoured fighting vehicles.
18 February 2022	US ambassador to the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe, Michael Carpenter, <u>says</u> Russia has “massed between 169,000 and 190,000 personnel in and near Ukraine”.  President Biden <u>says</u> he is “convinced” Russia's president has decided to invade

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Ukraine, but says there is still time for diplomacy to avert war.

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19 February 2022      Prime Minister Boris Johnson [meets](#) Ukrainian President Zelenskyy at the Munich security conference and underscores the UK's unequivocal support for Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Foreign Minister Liz Truss [tells](#) the conference that Ukraine could face the "worst-case scenario" of a Russian invasion as soon as next week, and Europe faces one of its most perilous security situations since the early 20th century.

A [joint statement](#) from G7 foreign ministers urges further diplomacy but warns it will "judge Russia by its deeds".

Russia's [strategic nuclear forces hold exercises](#) overseen by Putin. The Kremlin says Russia successfully test-launched hypersonic and cruise missiles at sea and land-based targets during the exercises.

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20 February 2022      President Macron of France [invites](#) Russian President Putin and US President Biden to attend a summit aimed at de-escalating the Ukraine crisis. The leaders agree in principle.

The US administration [signals](#) its willingness to work towards a diplomatic solution, but reiterates its view that Russian forces have been ordered to proceed with an invasion of Ukraine.

Satellite images appear to show [new deployments of Russian troops and armoured equipment](#), with some just 15 kilometres from the border with Ukraine.

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21 February 2022      President Putin [recognises the independence](#) of the two breakaway territories in eastern Ukraine – the Luhansk People's Republic and Donetsk People's Republic. Treaties of friendship, cooperation and mutual assistance were signed by Russia and the leaders of the LPR and DPR. Several Western

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leaders condemn the move, calling it a violation of the Minsk peace deal.

Putin orders Russian troops into the territories for what he describes as “[peacekeeping duties](#)”.

In a [statement](#) to the House of Commons, Defence Secretary Ben Wallace updates Members on Russia's actions towards Ukraine. He notes an increased number of Russian troops massing around the border with Ukraine, saying: “As of 09.00 hours today, there are now more than 110 battalion tactical groups massed around Ukraine’s borders with Russia and Belarus. In addition, in the Black Sea Fleet, there are two amphibious groups, nine cruise missile-equipped Russian ships and a further four cruise missile-capable vessels in the Caspian sea.”

In the evening, Prime Minister Boris Johnson speaks to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy to discuss the deteriorating situation in and around Ukraine, and [warns](#) an invasion is a real possibility in the coming hours and days.

The UN Security Council meets in the evening for an [emergency session](#), at the request of Ukraine’s Foreign Minister, Dmytro Kuleba.

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22 February 2022	NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg <a href="#">tells reporters</a> there is “every indication is that Russia is continuing to plan for a full-scale attack of Ukraine”.
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In a [statement](#) to the House of Commons, the Prime Minister updates Members on the situation in Ukraine and condemns President Putin’s violation of the Minsk peace agreements in recognising the so-called people’s republics of Donetsk and Luhansk as independent.

The Prime Minister outlines a package of sanctions to be imposed on “Russian

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individuals and entities of strategic importance to the Kremlin”.

He also provides an update on the measures the UK has taken to prepare Ukraine for another onslaught: “Training 22,000 soldiers, supplying 2,000 anti-tank missiles, and providing £100 million for economic reform and energy independence.” A new guarantee of up to \$500 million of Development Bank financing is also announced.

Following Russia’s recognition of two so-called “people’s republics” and the movement of military forces into Ukraine, the Foreign Office [summons](#) the Russian Ambassador to register the UK’s formal protest over Russia’s “continued undermining of Ukraine’s territorial integrity and sovereignty and flagrant disregard for the international obligations and commitments it has freely signed up to”.

The US and EU also impose sanctions on Russia, and Germany [announces](#) it will halt certification of the Nord Stream 2 pipeline.

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23 February 2022      Ukraine prepares its population for the prospect of a devastating war, with the parliament voting to approve a [state of emergency](#) decree, allowing authorities to “impose curfews and restrictions on movement, block rallies and ban political parties and organisations”. The decree will begin on 24 February and last for 30 days.

Airports in the eastern Ukrainian cities of Kharkiv, Dnipro, and Zaporizhzhia close their air space, and the nearly 3 million Ukrainians still in Russia are told to leave the country as soon as possible.

President Putin says Russia is ready to look for “diplomatic solutions” over Ukraine, but stresses his country’s interests are non-negotiable. In an address marking the Defender of the Fatherland Day, [Putin is cited as saying](#): “Our country is always open for direct and honest dialogue, for the search for diplomatic solutions to the most complex

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problems. The interests of Russia, the security of our citizens, are non-negotiable for us.”

Denis Pushilin and Leonid Pasechnik, the respective heads of the so-called People’s Republics of Donetsk and Luhansk, [request help](#) “in repelling the aggression of the Ukrainian armed forces”, according to the Interfax news agency, quoting Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov. Several [analysts suggest](#) these requests could be the pretext Russia uses to launch an attack on Ukraine.

The UN General Assembly [meets](#) to discuss the Ukraine crisis, with several member states calling for Russia to deescalate and spelling out the consequences of an invasion.

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# Current conflict: 24 February 2022 – 31 May 2022

## Key events

**24 February 2022:** In an early morning address on Russian state television, President Putin announces Russian forces will carry out “a special military operation” in Ukraine.

Ukraine’s President Zelenskyy introduces martial law and closes Ukraine’s airspace.

**25 February 2022:** President Zelenskyy decrees a full military mobilisation and all men aged 18-60 are forbidden from leaving Ukraine.

The UN Security Council rejects a draft resolution intended to end Russia’s military action after Russia uses its veto.

**27 February 2022:** President Zelenskyy announces Ukraine has filed a lawsuit against Russia to the UN International Court of Justice at the Hague.

President Putin orders Russia’s nuclear deterrence forces to be put on high alert.

**28 February 2022:** Russian forces launch rocket attacks that kill “dozens” of civilians in Ukraine’s second city, Kharkiv, and begin a renewed assault on the capital Kyiv.

President Zelenskyy signs an official request for Ukraine to join the EU immediately under a special procedure.

**1 March 2022:** President Zelenskyy urges Western nations to enforce a “no-fly zone” over Ukraine.

**2 March 2022:** Russian forces in Ukraine move to tighten their siege of key cities, including the capital, Kyiv, and the southern port of Mariupol.

The UN General Assembly votes overwhelmingly for a resolution deplored Russia’s invasion of Ukraine and calling for the immediate withdrawal of its forces.

The UK and 37 other countries formally refer reports of atrocities committed in Ukraine to the International Criminal Court (ICC).

**3 March 2022:** A fire breaks out at a nuclear power plant in Zaporizhzhia, after shelling by Russian forces.

The UK's Ministry of Defence says the Russian advance on Kyiv has been delayed by “staunch Ukrainian resistance, mechanical breakdown and congestion”.

**4 March 2022:** NATO's Secretary-General rejects a “no-fly zone” over Ukraine.

**7 March 2022:** Ukraine rejects an offer from Russia to create “humanitarian corridors”, after it emerges most of the routes lead directly to Russia or its ally, Belarus.

**8 March 2022:** President Zelenskyy broadcasts live to the House of Commons.

**10 March 2022:** The UK announces sanctions against seven Russian businessmen, including Roman Abramovich.

**11 March 2022:** The UK announces asset freezes and travel bans on 386 members of the Russian Duma.

**15 March 2022:** The leaders of Poland, the Czech Republic and Slovenia travel to Kyiv on an EU mission to show support for Ukraine.

**16 March 2022:** The International Court of Justice orders Russia to stop its invasion, saying it has not seen any evidence to support the Kremlin's justification to attack Ukraine.

**18 March 2022:** President Putin addresses a large crowd at Moscow's Luzhniki stadium, marking the eighth anniversary of Crimea's annexation.

**7 April 2022:** The UN General Assembly votes to suspend Russia's membership in the UN Human Rights Council.

**6 May 2022:** The UN Security Council issues its first statement on the war in Ukraine, but withholds from using the words “war”, “conflict” or “invasion”.

**12 May 2022:** Finland's President and Prime Minister endorse their country's application to join NATO.

**16 May 2022:** The Swedish government confirms it intends to apply for membership of NATO.

24 February 2022	<p>In an early morning address (just before 3am, UK time) on Russian state television, President Putin announces Russian forces will carry out “<a href="#"><u>a special military operation</u></a>” in Ukraine.</p> <p>Ukraine’s President Zelenskyy then makes an urgent <a href="#"><u>national address</u></a>, introducing martial law, while urging people to remain calm. Ukraine’s airspace is also closed.</p> <p>Zelenskyy decrees a full military mobilisation against the Russian military action, as he <a href="#"><u>criticises</u></a> the West and says Ukraine is being left on its own to fight Russia.</p> <p>In a <a href="#"><u>statement</u></a> to the House of Commons on the situation in Ukraine, the Prime Minister updates Members on Russia’s “onslaught” and announces a further package of sanctions and asset freezes on Russian entities and individuals.</p> <p>The Foreign Office <a href="#"><u>publishes</u></a> further details of the sanctions to be imposed and the Foreign Secretary summons the Russian Ambassador over Russia’s “unprovoked and unjustified attack on Ukraine”. The Home Secretary, meanwhile, <a href="#"><u>announces</u></a> visa concessions for Ukrainians.</p> <p>In an <a href="#"><u>address to the nation</u></a>, Prime Minister Boris Johnson says: “President Putin of Russia has unleashed war in our European continent,” and pledges to continue working “to ensure that the sovereignty and independence of Ukraine is restored”.</p>
25 February 2022	<p>Ukraine’s President, Volodymyr Zelenskyy, gives an early morning <a href="#"><u>address</u></a> and confirms multiple reports of Russian missile strikes. He again asserts that his country has been left to fight Russia alone, saying: “We have been left alone to defend our state. Who is ready to fight alongside us? I don’t see anyone. Who is ready to give Ukraine a guarantee of NATO membership? Everyone is afraid.”</p> <p>President Zelenskyy decrees a full military mobilisation and all men aged 18-60 are forbidden from leaving Ukraine.</p>

The 47-nation [Council of Europe announces](#) Russia will be suspended with “immediate effect” from the organisation’s Committee of Ministers and parliamentary assembly, “as a result of the Russian Federation’s armed attack on Ukraine.”

The UN Security Council [rejects a draft resolution](#) intended to end Russia’s military action against Ukraine. The draft, submitted by Albania and the United States, wins support from 11 member states but Russia’s veto ensures the draft resolution falls. China, India and the United Arab Emirates all abstain.

The leaders of NATO Member States [meet](#) to discuss Russia’s attack on Ukraine; additional deployments to the alliance’s eastern flank are announced. The Prime Minister [outlines](#) details of the UK’s new offer to NATO.

In a third wave of sanctions in four days, the UK Government [announces](#) Russian President Vladimir Putin and Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov will be hit with an assets freeze.

The Prime Minister addresses a NATO leaders’ meeting in the afternoon, to update allies on the UK’s next steps following Russia’s bombardment of Ukraine.

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26 February 2022 Fierce [fighting breaks out](#) in Kyiv as Russian forces try to push their way towards the city centre from multiple directions. President Zelenskyy rejects a US offer to evacuate him from the Ukraine’s capital.

The US, Canada and key European countries [agree to remove](#) “selected Russian banks” from the Swift payment system.

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27 February 2022 Responding to claims that the Russia is “ready for talks” with Ukraine, President Zelenskyy says his country is [ready for peace talks](#) with Russia, but not in Belarus. He describes the country as a staging ground for Russia’s invasion.

President Putin makes a televised address, [saluting](#) the “heroism” of Russian special forces in what he [describes](#) as a “special operation to provide assistance to the people’s republics of the Donbas”.

President Zelenskyy announces [Ukraine has filed a lawsuit against Russia](#) to the UN International Court of Justice at the Hague.

The UN Refugee Agency says [the number of people fleeing Ukraine has reached 368,000](#), and more than 4.5 million more could follow if the fighting spreads. There are also reports of tens of thousands on the move within the country itself.

President Putin orders Russia's military to put the country's [nuclear deterrence forces on high alert](#) in response to "aggressive statements" by NATO countries.

Jens Stoltenberg, NATO Secretary-General, [responds](#) to Putin's move: "This is dangerous rhetoric. This is a behaviour which is irresponsible."

A referendum in Belarus reportedly [approves a new constitution](#) renouncing the country's non-nuclear status. The move theoretically allows Russia to place nuclear weapons on Belarusian soil for the first time since the country gave them up after the fall of the Soviet Union.

The UN Security Council [votes](#) to call for a rare emergency special session of the UN General Assembly the following day, to discuss Russia's military operation in Ukraine. The vote follows the veto of the draft Security Council resolution by Russia on 25 February.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson [announces](#) £40m of additional aid will be released to provide vital medical supplies and other help to Ukraine.

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28 February 2022      Forty Ukrainian civil society groups come together to [call on the West](#) to establish safe zones for refugees inside Ukraine, and provide technology to help document Russian war crimes as part of a plan to make Russia's President Putin and his inner circle face justice at the International Criminal Court.

The first round of [Ukraine-Russia talks](#) aimed at ending the fighting between Russia and its neighbour conclude with no immediate agreement.

The prosecutor of the International Criminal Court in The Hague announces he will [launch an investigation into possible war crimes or crimes against humanity](#)

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in Ukraine. The move comes amid mounting evidence of Russia's use of indiscriminate cluster munitions on Ukrainian cities.

President Zelenskyy [signs an official request](#) for Ukraine to join the European Union immediately under a special procedure.

Turkey, a NATO member with good ties to both Russia and Ukraine, pledges to implement parts of an international pact that would potentially [limit the transit of Russian warships](#) from the Mediterranean to the Black Sea.

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1 March 2022

President Zelenskyy [tells the European Parliament](#) Ukraine is “giving away its best people for a desire to be treated as equals” and for the price of freedom. He calls on EU member states to prove their loyalty to Ukraine.

Russia’s defence ministry [warns Kyiv residents](#) to leave their homes as it plans to strike targets in the Ukrainian capital.

President Zelenskyy [urges Western nations](#) to enforce a “no-fly zone” as a measure to stop any further bombardment by Russia, but the US rules out such a measure.

The UK Government [pledges](#) a further £80 million in aid to help Ukraine deal with humanitarian crisis and [announces](#) further sanctions against Russia, including banning Russian ships from UK ports and additional economic measures. The Foreign Secretary also unveils the first tranche of [sanctions against Belarusian individuals and organisations](#), in response to Belarus’ role in supporting Russia’s military action against Ukraine.

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2 March 2022

The UN [votes](#) overwhelmingly for a resolution deplored Russia’s invasion of Ukraine and calling for the immediate withdrawal of its forces. The emergency session of the UN’s General Assembly sees 141 of the 193 member states voting for the resolution, 35 abstaining, and five voting against. The five countries voting no were Russia, Belarus, North Korea, Eritrea and Syria.

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The UK and 37 other countries formally [refer reports of atrocities](#) committed in Ukraine to the International Criminal Court (ICC).

Filippo Grandi, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, says [more than one million people have fled Ukraine](#) since Russian forces invaded the country a week earlier.

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3 March 2022

A [war crimes investigation is launched](#) into Russia's invasion of Ukraine, after an unprecedented number of countries backed the move. Karim Khan, chief prosecutor for ICC, says he will begin work "as rapidly as possible" to look for possible crimes against humanity or genocide committed in Ukraine.

In a second round of talks, Ukraine and Russia [agree to create humanitarian corridors](#) to evacuate civilians.

Ukraine's President Zelenskyy [calls for direct talks](#) with the Russia's President Putin, saying it is "the only way to stop this war".

UK Foreign Secretary Liz Truss [announces](#) sanctions against Russian oligarchs Alisher Usmanov and Igor Shuvalov, with a full asset freeze and travel ban imposed.

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4 March 2022

President Zelenskyy appeals to Europe for help following the attack on the Ukrainian nuclear plant and [accuses Russia of nuclear terrorism](#), saying; "For the first time in the history of humankind, the terrorist state commits nuclear terrorism."

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) puts its Incident and Emergency Centre in "[full 24/7 response mode](#)" due to the "serious situation" unfolding at Zaporizhzhia.

NATO foreign ministers discuss a "no-fly zone" over Ukraine but, [speaking after the meeting](#), the NATO Secretary-General says: "Allies agree that we should not have NATO planes operating over Ukrainian airspace or NATO troops on Ukrainian territory."

President Zelenskyy [criticises NATO's decision](#), saying: "The alliance has given the green light to the bombing of Ukrainian cities and villages by refusing to create a no-fly zone." He adds: "All the people

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who die from this day forward will also die because of you, because of your weakness, because of your lack of unity.”

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5 March 2022

The UK [urges British nationals to consider leaving Russia](#) if their presence in the country is not essential.

A planned evacuation from Mariupol and Volnovakha is [thrown in chaos](#) as Russia continues to attack despite agreeing a humanitarian corridor.

President Putin [describes](#) sanctions imposed by Western nations over his invasion of Ukraine as "akin to a declaration of war".

He also [says](#) Russia will consider any country that imposes a no-fly zone over Ukraine as having entered the conflict: “Any movement in this direction will be considered by us as participation in an armed conflict by that country.”

Prime Minister Boris Johnson issues a [six-point plan](#) which he hopes will ensure Russia fails in its military action against Ukraine:

1. we must mobilise an international humanitarian coalition
  2. we must do more to help Ukraine to defend itself
  3. we must maximise the economic pressure on Mr Putin’s regime
  4. no matter how long it takes, we must prevent any creeping normalisation of what Russia does in Ukraine
  5. we should always be open to diplomacy and de-escalation
  6. we must act now to strengthen Euro-Atlantic security
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6 March 2022

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken [speaks](#) with Chinese foreign minister Wang Yi, who tells him Beijing opposes any moves that “add fuel to the flames” in Ukraine.

David Arakhamia, one of Ukraine’s negotiators, says his country is [not willing to compromise on its territorial integrity](#) in talks but Russia, but is open to discussing “non-NATO models” for its future.

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The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRS) says the safe passage of civilians from Ukraine's besieged eastern port city of Mariupol is "halted" for a second consecutive day.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson [announces](#) the UK will provide \$100 million to Ukraine's government through the World Bank.

President Zelenskyy [addresses](#) the people of Ukraine, warning Russian troops he will punish those who commit atrocities in Ukraine: "We will not forgive. We will not forget. We will punish everyone who committed atrocities in this war on our land."

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7 March 2022

Ukraine [rejects an offer from Russia](#) to create "humanitarian corridors", allowing civilians to flee six heavily bombed Ukrainian cities, after it emerges most of the supposedly safe routes lead directly to Russia or its ally, Belarus.

Ukraine's Foreign Ministry says [Russian shelling is preventing the evacuation of civilians](#) from Kyiv, Mariupol, Sumy, Kharkiv, Volnovakha and Mykolayiv.

Josep Borrell, the EU's top diplomat, estimates as many as [five million Ukrainians will flee the country](#) if Russia's bombing campaign continues.

The UN's refugee agency notes [more than 1.7 million Ukrainians have already crossed into central Europe](#).

The [third round of Russian-Ukrainian talks](#) end with the delegations reporting some positive signs but no breakthrough. Mykhailo Polodnyak, an adviser to President Zelenskyy, says there has been some "small positive developments in improving the logistics of humanitarian corridors".

The US Ambassador to the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), Michael Carpenter, [accuses Belarus](#) of "stabbing [its] neighbour in the back", and describes Belarus as being a "co-aggressor" in Russia's military action in Ukraine.

The UK Ambassador to the OSCE, Neil Bush, [calls out](#) the Russian government for lying about their plan to invade Ukraine and expresses UK solidarity with the Ukrainian people.

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Ukraine's Infrastructure Minister, Oleksander Kubrakov, says [Ukraine has suffered about \\$10 billion in damage to infrastructure](#) since Russia launched military action against the country.

At a joint press conference in the UK, Prime Minister Boris Johnson makes a statement alongside Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte and Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau. They pledge additional aid for Ukraine and [announce](#) a new 'International Ukraine Support Group' to coordinate the efforts of the international community in providing long term, unwavering assistance.

In a [US Department of Defence briefing](#), an official says Russia has now committed almost 100% of the forces it had amassed for the attack on Ukraine: an estimated 127 battalion tactical groups. The official also explains the US has assessed that Russia has launched over 625 missiles, mostly short and medium range surface to air missiles and cruise missiles.

In a meeting of the UN Security Council, UK Ambassador Barbara Woodward praises Ukraine's resistance and [accuses President Putin](#) of "directing a campaign of violence and cruelty against civilians".

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8 March 2022

In a [Facebook post](#), the chief of staff of Ukraine's armed forces says they are fighting back against the invasion all over the country.

Russia reportedly opens humanitarian corridors from Kyiv, Cherihiv, Sumy, Kharkiv and Mariupol so that civilians can be evacuated.

The [number of refugees fleeing Ukraine reaches two million](#), according to the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Filippo Grandi. [Ukraine's ministry of foreign affairs reports](#) 12,000 Russian personnel have been killed in its latest assessment of their losses to date.

Chinese President Xi Jinping [calls for peace](#) and "maximum restraint to prevent a massive humanitarian crisis" in Ukraine, but stops short of criticising Russia or its president directly.

In an [unprecedented address broadcast live to the House of Commons](#), President Zelenskyy [echoes](#)

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Winston Churchill as he asks the UK to do more to help Ukraine.

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9 March 2022

The US Department of Defence dismisses a plan by Poland to give the US its MiG-29 fighter jets to boost Ukraine's fight against Russia.

Russia accuses the US of declaring an economic war on the country and warned it is working on a broad response to Western sanctions.

The UK announces a series of new aviation sanctions, giving the government power to detain any Russian aircraft in the UK.

President Zelenskyy says the international community will be responsible for a mass "humanitarian catastrophe" if it does not agree a no-fly zone to protect Ukraine.

Ukrainian authorities say Russian bombs have "completely destroyed" a children's and maternity hospital in Mariupol, as shelling again halts mass evacuations from several cities.

In Washington, UK Foreign Secretary Liz Truss meets US Secretary of State Antony Blinken and US National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan to discuss what more the UK and US can do to support Ukraine on security, intelligence, and humanitarian issues.

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10 March 2022

Russia's foreign ministry is quoted as saying Russia will no longer participate in the Council of Europe.

Sergey Lavrov and Dmytro Kuleba, the foreign ministers of Russia and Ukraine respectively, meet in Turkey. The meeting is notable in that the Ukrainian side indicate they are prepared for an alternative to NATO membership, provided the country is given security and economic guarantees underwritten by the West and Russia.

The UK announces sanctions against seven Russian businessmen, including Roman Abramovich and Oleg Deripaska.

In response to an Urgent Question in the House of Commons, the Home Secretary pledges to streamline

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[the online visa application system](#) for Ukrainian refugees.

The US Congress passes a spending bill late in the evening. This includes [\\$13.6bn in emergency aid for Ukraine](#) for humanitarian, defence and economic assistance, and for sanctions enforcement.

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11 March 2022

The [Versailles Summit](#) (in which the Heads of Government of the EU, the President of the European Council and the President of the European Commission address the war in Ukraine and the consequences for the EU in terms of sovereignty) meets for a second day.

In a statement published at the end of the summit, the [leaders pledge to support Ukraine in pursuing EU membership:](#)

On 28 February 2022, exercising the right of Ukraine to choose its own destiny, the President of Ukraine submitted the application of Ukraine to become a member of the European Union.

The Council has acted swiftly and invited the Commission to submit its opinion on this application in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Treaties. Pending this and without delay, we will further strengthen our bonds and deepen our partnership to support Ukraine in pursuing its European path. Ukraine belongs to our European family.

President Putin gives the green light for up to [16,000 volunteers from the Middle East to join Russian-backed rebels fighting in eastern Ukraine.](#)

The UK Government announces [asset freezes and travel bans on 386 members of the Russian Duma](#) who voted to recognise the independence of two territories in Ukraine, Luhansk and Donetsk.

The UN Security Council meets, at Russia's request, to discuss Moscow's claims that the US is funding "[military biological activities](#)" in Ukraine. The UN's High Representative of Disarmament Affairs tells the Security Council [the UN is not aware of any such biological weapons programmes.](#)

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12 March 2022

Russia's Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Ryabkov [warns the West against sending arms to Ukraine,](#)

saying Moscow will consider arms shipments as “legitimate targets”.

In a 75-minute phone call with President Putin, the French President and German Chancellor call for an immediate ceasefire. A French official says the Russian president showed [no willingness to end the war](#).

NATO Secretary-General [Jens Stoltenberg warns Russia may use chemical weapons](#) following its invasion of Ukraine and that such a move would be a war crime:

In recent days, we have heard absurd claims about chemical and biological weapons laboratories.

Now that these false claims have been made, we must remain vigilant because it is possible that Russia itself could plan chemical weapons operations under this fabrication of lies. That would be a war crime.

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13 March 2022      In an interview on CBS’s Face the Nation, US National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan warns Russia will pay a [“severe price”](#) if it uses chemical weapons in Ukraine.

He says: “The use of weapons of mass destruction would be a shocking additional line that Putin is crossing in terms of his assault on international law and international norms.”

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14 March 2022      [Further talks between Russia and Ukraine take place.](#)  
President Zelenskyy says: “Our goal is that in this struggle, in this difficult negotiating work, Ukraine will get the necessary result... for peace and for security.”

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15 March 2022      The [leaders of Poland, the Czech Republic and Slovenia travel to Kyiv](#) on an EU mission to show support for Ukraine. They are the first Western visitors to the city since Russia’s military operations began three weeks earlier.

The Kremlin announces it has put the US President, Secretary of State and other top officials on a “[stop list](#)” that bars them from entering Russia. The ban comes in response to sanctions imposed by Washington on Russian officials.

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The number of [Ukrainians fleeing abroad passes three million](#), data from the UN Refugee Agency shows.

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16 March 2022

A [peace deal under which Ukraine abandons its NATO aspirations](#) in return for Russian withdrawal and Western security guarantees moves closer. Russia's Foreign Minister, Sergey Lavrov, says: "Neutral status is now being seriously discussed seriously along, of course, with security guarantees. This is what is now being discussed at the talks. There are absolutely specific wordings and, in my view, the sides are close to agreeing on them."

Ukrainian President Volodymyr [Zelenskyy addresses the US Congress](#), remotely from Kyiv. Zelenskyy calls on President Biden to be a leader for peace and repeats his calls for a no-fly zone to be imposed over Ukraine.

The UN's International Court of Justice (ICJ) in The Hague [orders Russia to stop its invasion](#), saying it has not seen any evidence to support the Kremlin's justification for the war: that Ukraine was committing genocide against Russian-speakers in the east of the country.

The court rules by 13 votes to two for a provisional order that "the Russian Federation shall immediately suspend military operations that it commenced on 24 February 2022 in the territory of Ukraine". Only the Russian and Chinese judges on the court vote against the order.

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17 March 2022

In an address to Ukrainian citizens, President Zelenskyy [cautions Russian troops](#) by drawing a comparison to hostilities back in 2014:

The occupants thought they were going to Ukraine which they had seen before, in 2014-2015, which they corrupted and were not afraid of. But we are different now.

And it allows us to defend ourselves against a full-scale attack for 22 days.

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18 March 2022

[Russia Today has its licence to broadcast in the UK revoked](#) with immediate effect, after watchdog Ofcom says it does not consider the channel "fit and proper" or a "responsible broadcaster".

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[Russia establishes a no-fly zone over Ukraine's Donbas region](#), according to a separatist official from the self-proclaimed Donetsk republic.

The UN's human rights office (OHCHR) reports [at least 816 civilians have been killed and 1,333 wounded in Ukraine](#) as a result of Russia's military operations. The real death toll is likely to be higher as the OHCHR, which has a large monitoring team in Ukraine, has not yet been able to verify casualty reports from badly hit cities such as Mariupol.

Speaking to a large crowd at Moscow's Luzhniki stadium to mark the eighth anniversary of Crimea's annexation, [President Putin praises Russian "unity".](#)

In a phone call with China's President Xi Jinping, US President Joe Biden lays out the [consequences for China](#) if it supports Russia against Ukraine.

In a [statement](#), the White House says the phone call between the Chinese and American leaders, which lasted nearly two hours, focused on Russia's invasion of Ukraine:

President Biden outlined the views of the United States and our Allies and partners on this crisis. President Biden detailed our efforts to prevent and then respond to the invasion, including by imposing costs on Russia.

He described the implications and consequences if China provides material support to Russia as it conducts brutal attacks against Ukrainian cities and civilians.

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19 March 2022

[Russia says it has used its newest Kinzhal hypersonic missiles](#) for the first time in Ukraine, to destroy a weapons storage site in the country's west.

UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson warns of a "[new age of intimidation](#)" stretching from the Baltic to the Black Sea looms if Russia succeeds in its operations against Ukraine:

The end of freedom in Ukraine will mean the extinction of any hope of freedom in Georgia and then Moldova. It will mean the beginning of a new age of intimidation across the whole of Eastern Europe from the Baltic to the Black Sea.

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20 March 2022	Filippo Grandi, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, <a href="#">reveals ten million people – more than a quarter of Ukraine’s population – have now fled their homes:</a>  Among the responsibilities of those who wage war, everywhere in the world, is the suffering inflicted on civilians who are forced to flee their homes.
	The war in Ukraine is so devastating that 10 million have fled either displaced inside the country, or as refugees abroad.
21 March 2022	Komsomolskaya Pravda, a pro-Kremlin tabloid, says <a href="#">almost 10,000 Russian soldiers have been killed in Ukraine</a> : “According to Russian defence ministry data 9,861 Russian soldiers had been killed in action and another 16,153 had been wounded.”  In a news briefing the US Department of Defence <a href="#">accuses Russian forces of committing war crimes</a> in Ukraine and says it will help gather evidence of them, accusing the Kremlin of carrying out indiscriminate attacks as part of an intentional strategy in the conflict.
22 March 2022	UN Secretary-General António Guterres delivers a stark message to Russia: “ <a href="#">This war is unwinnable.</a> ” He urges an immediate ceasefire and a diplomatic solution to the crisis.  A senior US defence official says <a href="#">Russia’s combat power in Ukraine has declined below 90% of its pre-invasion levels</a> for the first time since its attack began, suggesting heavy losses of weaponry and growing casualties.
23 March 2022	<a href="#">Russia warns NATO of dire consequences</a> if it were to agree to send some peacekeeping forces into Ukraine. Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov tells reporters: “It would be a very reckless and extremely dangerous decision. A special military operation is going on, and any possible contact by our troops with NATO troops can lead to quite clear consequences that would be hard to repair.”  NATO estimates that <a href="#">between 7,000 and 15,000 Russian soldiers have been killed</a> since it commenced military operations against Ukraine a month earlier.

By way of comparison, Russia lost about 15,000 troops over 10 years in Afghanistan.

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken formally announces [the US Government believes Russia has committed war crimes in Ukraine and should be prosecuted](#). In a statement, Blinken repeatedly raises the brutality in the Ukrainian city of Mariupol and compares it to similar Russian campaigns against Grozny in the Second Chechen War and Aleppo during the Syrian civil war.

The UK Government announces it will [double the number of missiles it sends to Ukraine](#) and urges western allies to step up provisions of lethal aid to the country.

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24 March 2022

President [Zelenskyy addresses the Swedish Riksdag](#), telling parliamentarians Ukraine deserves to be a full member of the European Union: “We are fighting not only for Ukraine, but also for the security of the European Union! And we have proved that we deserve to be a full member of the European Union. The decision is already being elaborated. It's time to adopt it!”

President [Zelenskyy also addresses the NATO summit](#) in a pre-recorded video address, appealing to leaders to increase military support for his country against Russian forces. Zelenskyy warns Russia wants to expand further and would next target Alliance members in eastern Europe, including Poland and the Baltic states.

At the end of the NATO summit, the leaders of the Member States publish a [joint statement](#) condemning Russia’s actions against Ukraine and calling on China to “abstain from supporting Russia’s war effort in any way” and to “cease amplifying the Kremlin’s false narratives”.

In The Hague, the chief prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC) [asks a coalition of countries to back his war crimes investigation in Ukraine](#), saying “things can get worse” if the international community fails to act now.

[Russia and Ukraine exchange prisoners](#) in the first swap of soldiers since Moscow ordered troops into Ukraine one month earlier. Referring to Russian and

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Ukrainian troops, Ukraine's Deputy Prime Minister, Iryna Vereshchuk, says: "In exchange for 10 captured occupiers, we rescued 10 of our servicemen.

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25 March 2022	The US National Security Advisor, Jake Sullivan, reveals the <a href="#"><u>US and NATO are doing contingency planning</u></a> for any possible Russian attack on NATO territory.
	Russia's defence ministry says the <a href="#"><u>first phase of its military operation in Ukraine is generally complete</u></a> and that Russia will now focus on the "liberation" of Ukraine's eastern Donbas region.
26 March 2022	Russia again raises the spectre of the <a href="#"><u>use of nuclear weapons in its military campaign in Ukraine</u></a> . Dmitry Medvedev, a former Russian president who is deputy chairman of the country's security council, says Moscow could strike against an enemy that only used conventional weapons while Vladimir Putin's defence minister claims nuclear "readiness" is a priority.
27 March 2022	Secretary of State Antony Blinken tells reporters the US has <a href="#"><u>no plans for regime change in Russia</u></a> . His comments come a day after President Biden said President Putin "cannot remain in power". The Kremlin later says Biden's comments are a cause for concern and " <a href="#"><u>alarming</u></a> ".  Speaking to Russian journalists in a 90-minute video call, President Zelenskyy says <a href="#"><u>Ukraine is prepared to discuss adopting a neutral status</u></a> as part of a peace deal with Russia, but that it would have to be guaranteed by third parties and put to a referendum.
28 March 2022	Ukraine's economy minister, Yulia Svyrydenko, says <a href="#"><u>Ukraine has suffered \$564.9bn (£429.3bn) of damage</u></a> to infrastructure, lost economic growth and other factors since Russia began its military action.  Russia announces it is preparing to restrict entry for citizens of "unfriendly" countries, which would include the US, the UK, and all EU countries. In televised remarks Russian Foreign Minister <a href="#"><u>Sergei Lavrov says</u></a> : "A draft presidential decree is being developed on retaliatory visa measures in response to the unfriendly actions of a number of foreign states."

UK Foreign Secretary Liz Truss [accuses President Putin's forces of abducting innocent civilians](#), describing the move as an “abhorrent tactic”. She adds: “Putin must fail in Ukraine.”

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- 29 March 2022      Russia’s Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu says Moscow’s [“main goal” in Ukraine is now the “liberation” of the Donbas region](#). He says:
- “On the whole, the main targets of the first stage of this operation have been reached. The combat potential of the Ukrainian Armed Forces has been significantly depleted, which allows us to concentrate attention and our main efforts on the achievement of the primary objective, i.e. the liberation of Donbas”.
- A senior UN official says they have seen [videos purporting to show the abuse of prisoners of war on both sides in Ukraine](#). Matilda Bogner, head of the UN’s human rights office in Ukraine, says a number of videos of the abuse are being examined, adding: “On the face of it, it does raise serious concerns”.
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- 30 March 2022      The UN’s refugee agency says the [number of people fleeing Ukraine](#) since Russia’s military offensive began on 24 February passes four million. A further six-and-a-half million people are internally displaced within the country.
- Russian Foreign Minister [Sergey Lavrov hails China](#) as part of a new world order, ahead of a meeting with his Chinese counterpart, Wang Yi. In his first visit to China since Russia began military operations against Ukraine five weeks earlier, Lavrov says the world is “living through a very serious stage in the history of international relations”.
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- 31 March 2022      Commenting on Russian announcements about a scaling down of military operations around Kyiv, NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg tells reporters [Russian forces in Ukraine are regrouping and not withdrawing](#): “According to our intelligence, Russian units are not withdrawing but repositioning. Russia is trying to regroup, resupply and reinforce its offensive in the Donbas region.”
- In response to EU sanctions against Russia, [the Russian Government announces many senior EU figures are barred from entering Russia](#). EU officials,

lawmakers, public figures and journalists are among those sanctioned.

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- 1 April 2022      [European Union leaders call on China to help end the war in Ukraine](#), after having what are described as “frank” exchanges with their Chinese counterparts.
- The [US Department of Defense announces it will provide an additional \\$300 million in security assistance to Ukraine](#), including laser-guided rocket systems, drones, and commercial satellite imagery services.
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- 3 April 2022      Europe pledges further sanctions against Russia after [reports scores of unarmed Ukrainians have been killed in Bucha](#). President Zelenskyy says the Kremlin-ordered attack on his country amounts to genocide.
- In a video address to the nation in the evening, Zelenskyy blames former German Chancellor Angela Merkel and ex-French President Nicolas Sarkozy for [fourteen years of failed diplomacy vis a vis Russia](#), saying their approach emboldened Moscow to be more aggressive.
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- 4 April 2022      [US President Joe Biden calls for Vladimir Putin to be tried for war crimes](#), telling reporters at the Fort McNair army base in Washington: “You may remember I got criticised for calling Putin a war criminal. Well, the truth of the matter – we saw it happen in Bucha – he is a war criminal.”
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- 5 April 2022      The [UK and US announce plans to seek Russia's suspension from the UN human rights council](#), following allegations that Russian troops systematically executed civilians in Bucha.
- [President Zelenskyy addresses the UN Security Council](#) meeting in New York via video, the first time he has addressed the Council since Russia invaded his country on 24 February.
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- 6 April 2022      The US, UK and EU unveil new sanctions against Moscow. [US sanctions target Russian banks and elites](#), and include a ban on any American from investing in Russia as well as sanctions on Putin’s adult daughters. The [UK will impose an asset freeze on Russia's largest bank, place sanctions on eight](#)

more oligarchs and end imports of oil and coal by next year. The EU announces a wide-ranging package of sanctions, including import bans on coal and transaction bans on banks.

President Zelenskyy says the new package of international sanctions against Russia is “not enough” and without more painful measures and supplies of weapons, Russia will view the actions as permission to launch a new attack.

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7 April 2022

NATO foreign ministers meet in Brussels to address Russian President Putin’s “brutal and unprovoked invasion of Ukraine”.

Following the meeting, G7 foreign ministers issue a joint statement to condemn “in the strongest terms” the atrocities committed by Russian troops in Bucha and a number of other Ukrainian towns.

The UN General Assembly votes to suspend Russia’s membership in the UN Human Rights Council. The resolution receives a two-thirds majority, minus abstentions, with 93 nations voting in favour and 24 against. 58 nations abstained.

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8 April 2022

Prime Minister Boris Johnson visits President Zelenskyy in Kyiv to discuss further military and economic assistance. This includes new military assistance of 120 armoured vehicles and new anti-ship missile systems, with further economic support in the form of an additional \$500m (£385m) in World Bank lending to Ukraine, taking the UK’s total loan guarantee to up to \$1 billion.

European Commission’s President Ursula von der Leyen pledges to offer Ukraine’s President Zelenskyy a speedier start to his country’s bid to become a member of the EU. At a joint press conference with Zelenskyy, von der Leyen says: “It will not as usual be a matter of years to form this opinion but I think a matter of weeks.”

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9 April 2022

Olga Stefanishyna, Ukraine’s Deputy Prime Minister for European and Euro-Atlantic integration, says her country is “ready to move fast” with its application to become a member of the European Union.

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11 April 2022	Speaking in an interview with Russian state television, Russia's Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov says <u>Moscow will not pause its military operation in Ukraine before the next round of peace talks.</u>
	Austrian chancellor, Karl Nehammer, holds “ <u>direct, open and hard” talks</u> with President Putin in Moscow.
13 April 2022	The Foreign Secretary announces <u>new sanctions to be imposed on 178 Russian separatists</u> in breakaway regions of Ukraine.
	US President <u>Joe Biden announces an additional \$800m in military assistance to Ukraine</u> , including heavy artillery ahead of a wider Russian assault expected in eastern Ukraine.
14 April 2022	Dmitry Medvedev, deputy chairman of Russia's Security Council, says that <u>should Sweden and Finland join NATO then Russia will have to strengthen its land, naval and air forces in the Baltic Sea.</u>
	Ireland's Foreign Minister <u>Simon Coveney meets Ukrainian officials in Kyiv</u> and states: “Even though Ireland is a militarily neutral country, let me be clear, we are not neutral on this war. We are also not neutral on the future of your country.”
16 April 2022	Russia's <u>foreign ministry bans Boris Johnson, Liz Truss, Ben Wallace and 10 other British government members</u> from entering the country. The ministry says the move was taken “in view of the unprecedented hostile action by the UK government.
18 April 2022	President Zelenskyy says <u>Ukraine hopes to receive candidate country status to join the EU within weeks.</u> During a meeting in Kyiv with the EU's envoy to Ukraine, Matti Maasikas, Zelenskyy says:  “We strongly believe that this procedure (granting of candidate status) will take place in the coming weeks and that it will be positive for the history of our people, given the price they paid on the path to independence and democracy.”  A senior US defence department official reveals there are now <u>76 Russian battalion tactical groups in the Donbas region of Ukraine</u> and in the country’s

southeast, with 11 of those added over the last several days.

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19 April 2022	In remarks at a UN Security Council briefing on Ukraine, <a href="#">China criticises Western actions</a> , saying the provision of offensive weapons to Kyiv “will only prolong and escalate the conflict” and that some sanctions are “tantamount to weaponising economic interdependence”
20 April 2022	Figures by the UN’s refugee agency (UNHCR) show the number of <a href="#">Ukrainians who have fled abroad since Russia invaded on 24 February is now 5,010,971</a> .  <a href="#">Finance ministers from the UK, US, Canada and France walk out of a G20 meeting</a> as the Russian delegate speaks. The UK’s Chancellor of the Exchequer, <a href="#">Rishi Sunak, says the walkout was a coordinated protest</a> , tweeting:  “Earlier my representatives, along with US & Canadian counterparts left today’s G20 meeting in Washington as Russian delegates spoke.  We are united in our condemnation of Russia’s war against Ukraine and will push for stronger international coordination to punish Russia.”
21 April 2022	The parliaments of both <a href="#">Estonia and Latvia recognise Russia’s actions in Ukraine as “genocide”</a> .  In its statement the Latvian parliament cites “evidence of mass brutal crimes committed by the army of the Russian Federation, including the murder, torture, sexual abuse and desecration of Ukrainian civilians, including women and children, in Bucha, Irpin, Mariupol and elsewhere.”  Estonia’s parliament, meanwhile, cites “murders, enforced disappearances, deportations, imprisonment, torture, rape, and desecration of corpses.”
22 April 2022	Following its temporary closure, the UK government announces the <a href="#">British Embassy in Kyiv will reopen</a> in the following week.  UK Prime Minister <a href="#">Boris Johnson reveals dozens of Ukrainian soldiers are training in the UK</a> , learning how to use 120 British armoured vehicles before

returning with them to fight in the war against Russia.

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23 April 2022	In a telephone call, the <a href="#">Prime Minister and President Zelenskyy agree</a> on the importance of establishing a ceasefire and humanitarian corridor to allow civilians to leave Mariupol, and discuss the development of a long-term security solution for Ukraine.
25 April 2022	<a href="#">Sweden and Finland agree to submit applications to join NATO at the same time</a> . Both countries will announce their applications in the week commencing 16 May, during Finnish president Sauli Niinistö's visit to Stockholm.
26 April 2022	<a href="#">Officials from more than 40 countries meet at Germany's Ramstein airbase</a> , for US-hosted talks focusing on how to arm Kyiv against a Russian onslaught in eastern Ukraine.
27 April 2022	<a href="#">Russia's foreign ministry announces sanctions on 287 members of the House of Commons</a> . In a statement, the ministry says the decision to introduce restrictions was taken in response to Britain's decision on 11 March to sanction 386 members of the Russian state Duma.
28 April 2022	The <a href="#">UN Secretary-General describes the war in Ukraine as “an absurdity”</a> in the 21st century, on a visit to the scene of civilian killings outside Kyiv.  The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe calls for the creation “urgently” of a <a href="#">special tribunal to investigate</a> and prosecute the crime of aggression, allegedly committed by the political and military leadership of Russia in Ukraine.  <a href="#">The UN Secretary General has criticised his own organisation’s Security Council while on visit to Kyiv.</a>
3 May 2022	The <a href="#">Prime Minister addresses Ukraine’s Parliament via videolink</a> , saying this is Ukraine's 'finest hour' and announcing a new £300m package of defensive military aid for Ukraine.  Ukraine's parliament, the Verkhovna Rada, passes a law that <a href="#">bans political parties who justify, recognise or deny Russia's armed aggression against Ukraine</a> .

6 May 2022	The UN Security Council issues its first statement on the war in Ukraine, but withholds from using the words “war”, “conflict” or “invasion”.  The statement instead “expresses deep concern regarding the maintenance of peace and security of Ukraine” and voices “strong support” for Secretary-General Antonio Guterres in seeking a peaceful solution to the “dispute”.
	At the Security Council meeting, the UK condemns Russia’s continued aggression towards Ukraine.
8 May 2022	US First Lady Jill Biden makes an unannounced visit to western Ukraine to visit her Ukrainian counterpart, Olena Zelenska to show US support on Mother’s Day.  Meanwhile the Canadian Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau, also makes an unannounced trip to Ukraine, visiting the town of Irpin.
9 May 2022	Speaking to the European Parliament in Strasbourg, France’s President Macron says Ukraine’s bid to join the EU will “take several years indeed, probably several decades”.  In a national address in the evening, Ukraine’s President Zelenskyy confirms he submitted the second part of a formal questionnaire to obtain candidacy for membership in the EU during a video call with European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen.
10 May 2022	The UN’s migration agency says more than 8 million people had been internally displaced in Ukraine since the Russian invasion began on 24 February.  The figures, published in a report by the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), represent a 24% increase compared with the first internal displacement figures published on 16 March.  The Belarusian Chief of General Staff, Viktor Gulevich, announces his forces will deploy special operations troops in three areas near its southern border with Ukraine in response to a “growing threat” by the US and its allies.

- 11 May 2022      Prime Minister [Boris Johnson travels to Sweden and Finland](#) during a 24-hour trip to discuss the Nordic countries' ambitions to apply for NATO membership.
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- 12 May 2022      Finland's President Sauli Niinisto and Prime Minister Sanna Marin endorse their country's application to join NATO and say "[Finland must apply for NATO membership without delay](#)".
- In response, [Russia's Foreign Ministry warns](#):
- "Finland joining NATO is a radical change in the country's foreign policy.
- Russia will be forced to take retaliatory steps, both of a military-technical and other nature, in order to stop threats to its national security arising."
- The [UN's human rights council passes a resolution to investigate alleged abuses by Russian troops in parts of Ukraine](#) formerly under their control, with a view to holding those responsible to account.
- More than 50 countries back Kyiv's request for a special session of the council to examine "the deteriorating human rights situation in Ukraine stemming from the Russian aggression".
- The resolution passes by a strong majority, with 33 members voting in favour and two – China and Eritrea – against. There were 12 abstentions.
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- 13 May 2022      Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, [the Turkish president, casts doubt on Finnish and Swedish membership of NATO](#), saying he does not have a positive opinion of the two Nordic nations joining the military alliance, adding "We don't want to commit a mistake. Scandinavian countries are like guesthouses for terrorist organisations. To go even further, they have seats in their parliaments too."
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- 16 May 2022      The [Swedish government confirms it intends to apply for membership of NATO](#), joining neighbouring Finland.
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- 17 May 2022      [Finland's parliament overwhelmingly approves a proposal to apply for NATO membership](#). Of the 200 members of the legislature, 188 vote in favour and eight against the application.

25 May 2022	Members of the Russian State Duma <a href="#">vote to approve a new law that will eliminate age limits for military contract soldiers</a> . According to the bill, men up to age 65 will now be eligible to serve in the army. The new limit also applies to foreign nationals wishing to serve in the army.
	President <a href="#">Putin signs a decree</a> simplifying the process for residents of Ukraine's Russian-occupied Kherson and Zaporizhzhia regions to acquire Russian citizenship and passports.
27 May 2022	<a href="#">Russia blames Ukraine for the stalling of peace talks</a> between the two countries, claiming Ukraine's President Zelenskyy "constantly makes contradictory statements".
30 May 2022	The <a href="#">European Council says it is ready to grant Ukraine €9bn</a> to aid its post-war reconstruction. European Council President Charles Michel said the Council will "continue helping Ukraine with its immediate liquidity needs, together with G7".

# Current conflict: June-August 2022

## Key events

**7 June 2022:** Russia's parliament passes a pair of bills ending the ECHR's jurisdiction in the country.

**16 June 2022:** The leaders of France, Germany, Italy and Romania visit Kyiv, vowing to support Ukraine's bid to join the EU.

**17 June 2022:** UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson makes a surprise visit to Kyiv to meet Ukraine's President Zelenskyy.

**23 June 2022:** The EU approves the application of Ukraine to become a candidate country.

**5 July 2022:** The 30 NATO member states sign accession protocols for Finland and Sweden, sending the membership bids of the two Nordic countries to allied parliaments for approval.

2 June 2022

In a video address to the Luxembourg parliament, President Zelenskyy reveals [Russian forces currently occupy about 20% of Ukraine's territory.](#)

Ukrainian officials embark on a [diplomatic push to start the country's journey towards EU membership](#), as a number of member states express doubts about a fast-track approach.

3 June 2022

Marking “100 days of Putin’s war”, Foreign Secretary [Liz Truss says the UK’s steadfast support for Ukraine will never waver.](#)

7 June 2022

[Russia's parliament passes a pair of bills ending the European Court of Human Rights' jurisdiction in the country.](#) The first bill removes Russia from the court's jurisdiction and the second sets 15 March as the cut-off point, with rulings against Russia made after that date not to be implemented.

9 June 2022	The <a href="#">UK government says it is “deeply concerned”</a> over the death sentences handed to the Britons Aiden Aslin and Shaun Pinner, who were captured while fighting for Ukraine.
11 June 2022	A United Nations commission arrives in Ukraine to investigate war crimes. Deputy Speaker of Ukraine’s Parliament, Olena Kondratyuk, says <a href="#">the commission’s goal is to record war crimes and human rights violations</a> .
14 June 2022	<a href="#">Russia bans dozens of British journalists, media representatives and defence industry figures</a> from entering the country. In a statement, Russia’s Foreign Ministry says this is in response to western sanctions and pressure on its state-run media outlets abroad.
16 June 2022	The <a href="#">leaders of France, Germany, Italy and Romania vow to support Ukraine’s bid to join the EU</a> on a visit to Kyiv intended as a show of unity in the face of Russian advances and complaints from the Ukrainians about the pace of weapons supplies.
17 June 2022	The European Union’s executive commission <a href="#">recommends Ukraine and its neighbour Moldova be designated candidates for membership of the bloc</a> .  UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson makes a surprise visit to Kyiv to meet Ukraine’s President Zelenskyy and later <a href="#">holds a press conference</a> .
20 June 2022	In an <a href="#">address to the African Union</a> , President Zelenskyy calls Africa a “hostage” to Russia’s war in his country, which has led to global food shortages and famine fears across the African continent.
23 June 2022	The <a href="#">EU approves the application of Ukraine to become a candidate country</a> following the earlier recommendation of the European Commission on 17 June.
27 June 2022	<a href="#">Leaders of the G7 pledge to stand with Ukraine “for as long as it takes”</a> by ramping up sanctions on Russia and backing security commitments for Kyiv in a post-war settlement.  In a telephone call, <a href="#">Russia’s President Vladimir Putin and his Brazilian counterpart, Jair Bolsonaro, discuss</a>

global food security and confirm their intention to strengthen their strategic partnership.

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28 June 2022	Speaking on the sidelines of the NATO summit in Madrid, the alliance's Secretary-General, Jens Stoltenberg, says he does not see China as an adversary, but notes <u>NATO is concerned about Beijing's ever closer ties with Moscow</u> .
29 June 2022	<u>Syria became the first nation other than Russia to formally recognise the two separatist republics in eastern Ukraine.</u>  In response, President Zelenskyy announces the end of diplomatic ties between Ukraine and Syria, adding the sanctions pressure against Syria “will be even greater”.
30 June 2022	At the NATO Leaders’ Summit, the <u>Prime Minister announces a further £1 billion package of military support to Ukraine</u> . This brings the total of UK military and economic support to £3.8 billion this year.
1 July 2022	In a <u>speech via video link to Ukraine’s parliament</u> , the President of the European Commission tells Kyiv there is “a long road ahead” for its bid to become an EU member state, but that “Europe will be at your side every step of the way”.
4 July 2022	<u>Ukraine’s Prime Minister Denys Shmyhal puts a \$750bn (£620bn) price tag on the recovery of his country</u> at the Ukraine Recovery Conference hosted by Switzerland.  Shmyhal also tells the conference Ukraine has so far suffered more than \$100bn of direct damage to its infrastructure.
5 July 2022	In a written statement, the UK Defence Secretary <u>Ben Wallace says the first rotation of Ukrainian soldiers has arrived in the UK for training</u> ; part of a £2.3bn military aid package that includes a programme to train up to 10,000 new Ukrainian recruits.  The 30 <u>NATO member states sign accession protocols for Finland and Sweden</u> , sending the membership

bids of the two Nordic countries to allied parliaments for approval.

The protocol means Finland and Sweden can join in NATO meetings and have greater access to intelligence but will not be protected by an alliance defence clause – that an attack on one ally is an attack against all – until ratification.

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6 July 2022 Chinese Vice-Foreign Minister, Ma Zhaoxu, tells the Russian Ambassador to China, Andrey Denisov, that [Beijing is willing to deepen cooperation with Russia within multilateral frameworks including the G20.](#)

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7 July 2022 In his resignation speech outside Downing Street, [Boris Johnson says he is “immensely proud” of the achievements of his government](#), including “leading the West in standing up to Putin’s aggression in Ukraine”, adding:

“And let me say now, to the people of Ukraine, that I know that we in the UK will continue to back your fight for freedom for as long as it takes.”

Johnson remains Prime Minister until a successor is appointed.

In a statement released after the two leaders speak by telephone, Zelenskyy thanks Johnson for defending Ukraine’s interests after Russia’s invasion:

“We all heard this news with sadness. Not only me, but also the entire Ukrainian society, which is very sympathetic to you... We have no doubt that Great Britain’s support will be preserved, but your personal leadership and charisma made it special.”

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13 July 2022 [North Korea officially recognises the self-proclaimed Donetsk People’s Republic and the self-proclaimed Luhansk People’s Republic](#), the pro-Russian occupied territories in the east of Ukraine. The move makes North Korea only the third UN member state to recognise them as legitimate authorities, after Russia and Syria.

In response, [Ukraine’s foreign ministry announces it has cut ties with the North Korea](#), saying:

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“We consider this decision as an attempt by Pyongyang to undermine the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine.”

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14 July 2022      Addressing a conference at The Hague focused on war crimes in Ukraine, [President Zelenskyy urges European and International Criminal Court officials to open a “special tribunal”](#) to investigate Russia’s invasion of his country.

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15 July 2022      The [Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office summons the Russian Ambassador](#), Andrey Kelin, to express the UK’s concern over reports of the death of a British aid worker in the non-government controlled areas of Ukraine. In a statement, Foreign Secretary Liz Truss says:

“I am shocked to hear reports of the death of British aid worker Paul Urey while in the custody of a Russian proxy in Ukraine. Russia must bear the full responsibility for this.”

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19 July 2022      Dmitry Medvedev, Russia’s former President who is now Deputy Head of its Security Council says [peace in Ukraine, when it comes, will be on Moscow’s terms](#) and that Russia is on course to seize more parts of Ukraine, saying: “Russia will achieve all its goals. There will be peace – on our terms.”.

Attending his first major summit outside of Russia since the invasion of Ukraine, President Putin wins the endorsement of the Iranian Supreme Leader, with Khamenei telling Putin:

“War is a harsh and difficult issue, and Iran is not at all pleased that ordinary people suffer from it, but in the case of Ukraine if you had not taken the initiative, the other side would have caused the war with its own initiative.

If the road is open to Nato, it knows no boundaries and if it was not stopped in Ukraine they would start the same war some time later under the pretext of Crimea.”

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1 August 2022      [Russia bans 39 senior British politicians, businesspeople and journalists](#) from entering the country, including the Labour Party leader, Sir Keir Starmer, and former prime minister David Cameron.

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9 August 2022	The United Nations refugee agency, the UNHCR, reveals <a href="#">more than 10.5 million people have crossed the border from Ukraine</a> since Russia's invasion began on 24 February.
	US President <a href="#">Biden signs the documents of ratification</a> to formally back Finland and Sweden in joining the NATO alliance, saying:
	<p style="padding-left: 40px;">“In seeking to join NATO, Finland and Sweden are making a sacred commitment that an attack against one is an attack against all.”</p>
15 August 2022	<p>President <a href="#">Putin tells North Korean leader Kim Jong Un</a> the two countries will “expand the comprehensive and constructive bilateral relations with common efforts”.</p>
	<p>Kim notes the “strategic and tactical cooperation, support and solidarity” between the two countries has reached a new level in their common efforts to frustrate threats and provocations from hostile military forces.</p>
	<p>Putin also says <a href="#">Moscow values its ties with countries in Latin America, Asia and Africa</a> and is ready to offer modern weapons to its allies.</p>
23 August 2022	<p>Prime Minister <a href="#">Boris Johnson urges world leaders not to allow President Putin to repeat the annexation of Crimea in other parts of Ukraine</a>.</p>
	<p>In a remote address to the Crimea Platform conference, Johnson says the UK will continue to support Ukraine with military, humanitarian, economic and diplomatic support until Russia “ends this hideous war and withdraws its forces from the entirety of Ukraine”.</p>
24 August 2022	<p>The UK Prime Minister visits Ukraine to <a href="#">announce further military support</a>, noting: “What happens in Ukraine matters to us all. That is why I am in Kyiv today.”</p>
	<p>The latest £54m support package includes unmanned surveillance and missile systems for the Ukrainian military.</p>
27 August 2022	<p><a href="#">Russia blocks an agreement at the UN</a> that is aimed at bolstering the nuclear non-proliferation treaty</p>

(NPT) because Moscow objects to a clause about control over the Zaporizhzhia power plant in Ukraine.

The failure to agree to a joint statement after four weeks of debate and negotiation among 151 countries at the UN is the latest blow to hopes of maintaining an arms control regime.

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# Current conflict: September-November 2022

## Key events

**6 September 2022:** Liz Truss replaces Boris Johnson as UK Prime Minister.

**21 September 2022:** President Zelenskyy speaks virtually to the UN General Assembly in New York, saying the world wants peace.

**30 September 2022:** President Putin signs “accession treaties” formalising Russia’s illegal annexation of four occupied regions in Ukraine.

Russia later vetoes a Western bid at the UN Security Council to condemn its annexations of Ukrainian territory.

**5 October 2022:** President Putin signs the laws to formally absorb four Ukrainian regions into Russia.

**19 October 2022:** Russia’s Foreign Minister, Sergei Lavrov, says Russia no longer sees a need to maintain a diplomatic presence in the West.

**25 October 2022:** Rishi Sunak replaces Liz Truss as UK Prime Minister.

**5 November 2022:** Iran acknowledges for the first time that it has supplied Moscow with drones.

**10 November 2022:** New data reveals the full effect of UK sanctions on Russia, with £18.39 billion of Russian assets sanctioned.

**23 November 2022:** The European Parliament votes to designate Russia a “state sponsor of terrorism”.

4 September 2022      In a sign of easing tensions between Berlin and Kyiv, Ukraine’s Prime Minister [Denys Shmyhal thanks Germany for its solidarity in the face of the Russian](#)

[invasion](#) and calls for more weapons, in a visit to Berlin to meet German Chancellor Olaf Scholz.

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6 September 2022 Russia's Foreign Minister, Sergei [Lavrov, criticises the UK's new Prime Minister, Liz Truss](#), and says the UK will not strengthen its position in the international arena under her leadership.

Speaking at a news conference in Moscow, Lavrov says Truss tried to “defend Britain’s interests without taking into account the positions of others in any way and without any attempt to compromise”.

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7 September 2022 Prime Minister [Liz Truss speaks to her Ukrainian counterpart President Zelenskyy](#) to pledge her “full backing” for Ukraine. A statement released by 10 Downing St notes:

“In her first call with a counterpart since becoming prime minister, she reiterated to the Ukrainian leader that he had her full backing, and Ukraine could depend on the UK’s assistance for the long term.

The leaders discussed the need to strengthen global security and the measures necessary to cut off the funds fuelling Putin’s war machine.”

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13 September 2022 A newly declassified cable released by the US State Department reveals [Russia has covertly spent more than \\$300m since 2014 to try to influence politicians](#) and other officials in more than two dozen countries.

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14 September 2022 European Commission President, Ursula von der Leyen, says [Western sanctions on Russia are having a real impact and are here to stay](#), stressing the EU’s solidarity with Ukraine remains “unshakeable”.

With the Ukrainian first lady, Olena Zelenska, as guest of honour Von der Leyen delivers her annual state of the union speech, telling the European Parliament:

“Never before has this parliament debated the state of our union with war raging on European soil.

And I stand here with the conviction that with courage and solidarity, Putin will fail and Europe will prevail,” Von der Leyen said, adding: “Europe’s solidarity with Ukraine will remain unshakeable.”

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Following a telephone conversation with President Putin, the UN Secretary-General says [the prospects for peace in Ukraine are currently “minimal”](#).

Antonio Guterres says he and Putin discussed efforts to overcome “obstacles”, but stresses: “I have the feeling we are still far away from peace. I would be lying if I would say it could happen soon.”

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16 September 2022      The UN food chief says the world is facing “a [global emergency of unprecedented magnitude](#),” with up to 345 million people at risk of starvation and 70 million pushed closer to starvation by the war in Ukraine.

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18 September 2022      The first lady of Ukraine, [Olena Zelenska, pays her respects to the late Queen Elizabeth II’s lying in state](#) at Westminster Hall, before attending a reception with the Princess of Wales at Buckingham Palace.

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21 September 2022      President [Zelenskyy speaks virtually to the UN General Assembly](#) in New York, saying:

“Ukraine wants peace. Europe wants peace. The world wants peace. And we have seen who is the only one who wants war. There is only one entity among all UN member states who would say now if he could interrupt my speech that he is happy with this war, with his war.”

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22 September 2022      In a special [Foreign Minister-level UN Security Council meeting on Ukraine](#), James Cleverly reiterates the [UK’s full and unwavering commitment to Ukraine’s sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity](#).

[Russia’s Foreign Minister briefly attends the meeting](#) to give his speech, before promptly walking out.

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24 September 2022      Iran’s ministry spokesperson, [Nasser Kanaani, warns Ukraine](#) to “refrain from being influenced by third parties who seek to destroy relations between the two countries”.

The statement comes after Ukraine downgraded diplomatic ties with Iran on and stripped its ambassador of his accreditation over what it called Tehran’s “unfriendly” decision to supply Russian forces with drones.

25 September 2022      Sergei Lavrov says the four regions of Ukraine where widely-criticised referendums are being held will be under Moscow's "full protection" if they are annexed.

At a news conference following his speech to the UN General Assembly in New York, Lavrov is asked whether Russia would have grounds for using nuclear weapons to defend annexed regions of Ukraine. He says Russian territory – including territory “further enshrined” in Russia’s constitution in the future – “is under the full protection of the state”.

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27 September 2022      The US Embassy in Moscow issues a security alert and urges American citizens to leave Russia immediately.

In a statement on its website the US Embassy warns that dual Russian-US nationals may be called up as part of the Russian government’s mobilisation in support of its invasion of Ukraine, noting:

“Russia may refuse to acknowledge dual nationals’ U.S. citizenship, deny their access to U.S. consular assistance, prevent their departure from Russia, and conscript dual nationals for military service.”

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28 September 2022      Prime Minister Liz Truss tells President Zelenskyy in a phone call that the UK will never recognise Russian attempts to annex parts of Ukraine.

A statement issued by 10 Downing St reads:

“The prime minister spoke to President Zelenskyy this afternoon to underline the UK’s steadfast support in light of Russia’s sham referendums in Ukraine.

The prime minister made clear that the UK would never recognise Russian attempts to annex sovereign territory. She reiterated that Ukraine could depend on the UK’s support until President Putin was defeated.

President Zelensky updated the prime minister on the current military situation and welcomed her strong backing, including at the UN general assembly last week.”

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30 September 2022      President Putin signs “accession treaties” formalising Russia’s illegal annexation of four occupied regions

in Ukraine, marking [the largest forcible takeover of territory in Europe since the second world war.](#)

Hours later, President Zelenskyy announces [Ukraine is officially applying for membership of NATO.](#)

In the evening, [Russia vetoes a Western bid at the UN Security Council to condemn its annexations of Ukrainian territory](#), specifically the regions of Luhansk, Donetsk, Kherson, and Zaporizhzhia.

The draft resolution, circulated by the US and Albania, was supported by ten of the fifteen members of the Security Council. Russia voting against it, with four members abstaining: Brazil, China, Gabon and India.

Speaking afterwards, the [UK's Ambassador condemned Russia](#) for using its veto to block the resolution.

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2 October 2022      The presidents of [nine NATO countries in central and eastern Europe declare they will never recognise the annexation by Russia of Ukrainian territory.](#)

[The statement](#) – issued by the presidents of the Czech Republic, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Poland, Romania and Slovakia – says they could not “stay silent in the face of the blatant violation of international law by the Russian Federation” and that “We reiterate our support for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine.”

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5 October 2022      President Putin [signs the laws to formally absorb four Ukrainian regions into Russia](#). Russia’s State Duma, the lower house of parliament, announces: “Russian President Vladimir Putin has signed four federal constitutional laws on the entry of the Donetsk and Luhansk People’s Republics, Zaporizhzhia and Kherson regions into the Russian Federation. He also signed the relevant laws on ratification.”

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10 October 2022      At a UN General Assembly Emergency Special Session on Ukraine, the UK Ambassador urges UN member states “[to condemn the largest forcible annexation attempt since the Second World War](#)”.

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11 October 2022      G7 leaders hold a meeting “[to reiterate the unity of opposition to Putin’s continued brutality in Ukraine](#)”.

At the G7 meeting, Ukraine's [President Zelenskyy calls for an international monitoring mission on the Ukraine-Belarus border](#), saying:

"Russia is trying to directly draw Belarus into this war, playing a provocation that we are allegedly preparing an attack on this country."

In a [statement issued following the summit](#), the leaders of the G7 vow to hold President Vladimir Putin and those responsible for the attacks on Ukraine to account. They also say they will "never recognise" Russia's "illegal annexation" of Ukrainian territory or "the sham referenda that Russia uses to justify it".

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12 October 2022	The <a href="#">UN General Assembly passes a resolution</a> calling on member states not to recognise the four Ukrainian regions claimed by Russia and to demand Moscow reverses course on its "attempted illegal annexation".  143 UN member states vote in favour of the resolution, with five against: Russia, Syria, Nicaragua, North Korea and Belarus. Thirty-five countries abstain, including Russia's strategic partner China, together with India, South Africa and Pakistan. The rest did not vote.
18 October 2022	Ukraine's Foreign Minister, Dmytro Kuleba, announces he is <a href="#">submitting a proposal to President Zelenskyy to cut diplomatic ties with Iran</a> .  Kuleba also said Kyiv will send an official note to Israel seeking immediate air defence supplies and cooperation in the sector.
19 October 2022	Russia's Foreign Minister, Sergei Lavrov, says <a href="#">Russia no longer sees a need to maintain a diplomatic presence in the West</a> according to the Russian news agency TASS, who quotes him as saying:  "There is neither point nor desire to maintain the previous presence in Western states. Our people work there in conditions that can hardly be called human. Problems are being created constantly for them; they face threats of physical assaults. And, most importantly, there's no work to do since Europe decided to shut off from us and sever any economic cooperation. You can't force love."

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23 October 2022	UK Defence Secretary <a href="#">Ben Wallace speaks to his Russian counterpart, Sergei Shoigu</a> , in a rare telephone call initiated at the request of the Russians.
	In the call, Wallace refutes claims that Ukraine, facilitated by Western counties including the UK, were planning to escalate the conflict in Ukraine.
24 October 2022	<a href="#">Russia's Military Chief of General Staff Valery Gerasimov speaks to the UK's Chief of Defence Staff Tony Radakin</a> and the Chairman of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff Mark Milley.
	The Russian defence ministry says Gerasimov and his British counterpart discussed the possibility, raised by Moscow without any evidence, that Ukraine might use a “dirty bomb”. The claims are categorically rejected by Radakin.
25 October 2022	Hours after becoming the UK Prime Minister, <a href="#">Rishi Sunak speaks to US President Joe Biden</a> and they agree to work together to support Ukraine.
27 October 2022	President Putin gives a speech to a meeting of the Valdai discussion forum in Moscow, a thinktank with close links to the Kremlin, generally <a href="#">considered to be part of Moscow's propaganda machine</a> .  In his speech, <a href="#">Putin accuses “Western elites” of playing a “dangerous, bloody and dirty game”</a> and blames them for much of the world’s trouble, including his own invasion of Ukraine.
3 November 2022	In an <a href="#">interview with Sky News</a> , Andrei Kelin, the Russian ambassador to the United Kingdom, warns that the UK is in “too deep” in the war in Ukraine, claiming he has proof that UK special forces have been involved in a Ukrainian drone attack on Russia’s Black Sea fleet in Crimea.
5 November 2022	<a href="#">Iran acknowledges for the first time that it has supplied Moscow with drones</a> , but says the drones were sent before the war in Ukraine.
8 November 2022	US National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan confirms <a href="#">communication channels between Washington and Moscow remain open</a> .

Speaking at an event at the Economic Club of New York, Sullivan says it is “in the interests” of the US and every country affected by the war in Ukraine to maintain contact with the Kremlin.

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10 November 2022	New data reveals the full effect of UK sanctions on Russia, with <a href="#">£18.39 billion of Russian assets frozen</a> and reported to the Office of Financial Sanctions Implementation (OFSI).
13 November 2022	<p>US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen says <a href="#">some sanctions on Russia could remain in place after any peace agreement with Ukraine</a>.</p> <p>Yellen says any eventual peace agreement will involve a review of the penalties the US and its allies have imposed on Russia’s economy.</p> <p>In an interview while attending the G20 summit in Indonesia, Yellen says:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">“I suppose in the context of some peace agreement, adjustment of sanctions is possible and could be appropriate.”</p>
14 November 2022	<p>The EU and its member states have so far provided weapons and military equipment worth a total of at least €8bn (£7bn) to Ukraine, according to the bloc’s foreign policy chief Josep Borrell.</p> <p>Speaking to reporters after a meeting with his EU counterparts in Brussels, he said this was about 45% of what the US has supplied to Kyiv.</p> <p>The <a href="#">United Nations General Assembly calls for Russia to make reparations to Ukraine and be held accountable for its conduct</a>.</p> <p>The resolution, supported by 94 of the Assembly’s 193 members, says Russia “must bear the legal consequences of all of its internationally wrongful acts, including making reparation for the injury, including any damage, caused by such acts.”</p>
15 November 2022	<p>In his address to world leaders gathered for the G20 summit in Indonesia, President <a href="#">Zelenskyy outlines a series of conditions needed to end the war Ukraine</a>.</p> <p>Speaking virtually from Ukraine, Zelenskyy says Russia must reaffirm the territorial integrity of</p>

Ukraine, withdraw its troops from Ukrainian territory and pay compensation for damage caused.

Zelenskyy also calls for an international conference to “cement key element of the postwar security architecture” and prevent a recurrence of “Russian aggression”.

Throughout his speech Zelenskyy thanks the “G19”, thus excluding Russia.

Russia’s President Putin was not in the room, but his foreign minister Sergei Lavrov was in attendance.

Meanwhile, the UN human rights office (OHCHR) says both [Russia and Ukraine have tortured prisoners of war](#) during the conflict, citing examples including the use of electric shocks and forced nudity.

UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak says he has spoken to Polish President Andrzej Duda following [reports of a missile strike in Poland](#), and affirms “the UK's solidarity with Poland.”

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16 November 2022      Poland’s President Duda says the missile that landed in his country and killed two appears to be an “unfortunate accident” and there is [no evidence it was launched by Russia](#), adding It is “highly probably that it was fired by Ukrainian anti-aircraft defence” and “unfortunately fell into Polish territory.”

Following an emergency meeting on the margins of the G20 Summit in Indonesia, NATO and G7 leaders condemn Russia’s “barbaric missile attacks” on Ukraine.

The leaders of Canada, the EU, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Spain, the UK and the US release the following statement:

“We condemn the barbaric missile attacks that Russia perpetrated on Ukrainian cities and civilian infrastructure on Tuesday.

We discussed the explosion that took place in the eastern part of Poland near the border with Ukraine. We offer our full support for and assistance with Poland’s ongoing investigation. We agree to remain in close touch to determine appropriate next steps as the investigation proceeds.

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We reaffirm our steadfast support for Ukraine and the Ukrainian people in the face of ongoing Russian aggression, as well as our continued readiness to hold Russia accountable for its brazen attacks on Ukrainian communities.”

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- 19 November 2022 In his first visit to Kyiv, Prime Minister Rishi Sunak meets President Zelenskyy and confirms the [UK will provide a new package of air defence](#) to help protect Ukrainian civilians and critical national infrastructure. The £50 million package comprises 125 anti-aircraft guns and technology to counter deadly Iranian-supplied drones.
- 21 November 2022 In a [video address to NATO Parliamentary Assembly's annual session in Madrid](#), President Zelenskyy appeals to members to guarantee the protection of his country's nuclear power plants from “Russian sabotage”.  
Zelenskyy also calls for new EU sanctions against Russia over what he said was its “policy of genocide” as its forces bomb civilian infrastructure.
- 23 November 2022 The European Parliament votes to designate Russia a [“state sponsor of terrorism”](#).  
In a largely symbolic vote, MEPs argue Russia’s military strikes on civilian targets such as energy infrastructure, hospitals, schools and shelters violate international law.
- 28 November 2022 The foreign ministers of Estonia, Finland, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway and Sweden visit Kyiv to [show their support for Ukraine](#).  
UK Foreign Secretary, [James Cleverly, meets Ukraine's first lady Olena Zelenska](#) during her visit to London to discuss the prevention of sexual violence in conflicts. The Foreign Secretary affirms: “The UK stands with Ukraine, and with all survivors of these despicable crimes.”
- 29 November 2022 In Westminster, Mrs Zelenska addresses MPs and peers and echoes Churchill’s words when speaking about air raid sirens in Ukraine:  
“We’re hearing sirens every day. They are identical to those which were heard by British generations.”

You did not surrender and we will not surrender.  
But victory is not the only thing we need. We need  
justice. I come to you for justice.”

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# Current conflict: December 2022 - present

## Key events

**8 December 2022:** President Putin admits Russia's war in Ukraine could turn into a "long-term process".

**19 December 2022:** President Putin discusses closer military cooperation with his Belarusian counterpart, Alexander Lukashenko, during a rare visit to the country.

**26 December 2022:** Ukraine calls for Russia to be removed as a permanent member of the UN Security Council.

**14 January 2023:** Prime Minister Rishi Sunak confirms the UK is planning to provide Ukraine with a small number of Challenger 2 tanks.

**30 January 2023:** President Recep Tayyip Erdoan says Turkey could accept Finland into NATO without its Nordic neighbour Sweden.

Ukraine's Prime Minister, Denys Shmyhal, says he wants the country to join the EU within two years.

**17 February 2023:** World leaders gather in Germany for the Munich security conference, to discuss Europe's security situation following Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

**20 February 2023:** President Biden visits the Ukrainian capital, Kyiv, to meet President Zelenskyy.

**21 February 2023:** President Putin announces Russia will suspend the New START bilateral nuclear treaty with the US.

**22 February 2023:** President Putin revokes a 2012 decree that in part underpins Moldova's sovereignty.

China's top diplomat, Wang Yi, meets President Putin in Moscow, as they reaffirm their close bilateral relationship.

**23 February 2023:** The UN General Assembly adopts a resolution calling for the ending of the war in Ukraine.

2 December 2022	<p>Finland's Prime Minister, Sanna Marin, calls for <a href="#"><u>Europe to build its own defence capabilities</u></a> in the wake of the war in Ukraine, so as to have resilience without US support:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">“We should make sure that we are stronger. And I'll be brutally honest with you, Europe isn't strong enough. We would be in trouble without the United States.”</p>
3 December 2022	<p>The Ukrainian Foreign Minister, Dmytro Kuleba, accuses Russia of orchestrating a series of <a href="#"><u>letters containing explosives or animal parts</u></a> that were sent to 17 Ukrainian embassies or diplomatic missions around the world in recent days.</p>
8 December 2022	<p>Speaking to members of his personal human rights council, President Putin admits <a href="#"><u>Russia's war in Ukraine could turn into a “long-term process”</u></a>.</p>
10 December 2022	<p>In an interview with Norwegian broadcaster NRK, the head of NATO expresses <a href="#"><u>concerns that the fighting in Ukraine could spin out of control and become a war between Russia and NATO</u></a>:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">“If things go wrong, they can go horribly wrong. It is a terrible war in Ukraine. It is also a war that can become a full-fledged war that spreads into a major war between NATO and Russia. We are working on that every day to avoid that.”</p>
11 December 2022	<p>The EU foreign policy chief, <a href="#"><u>Josep Borrell</u></a>, calls for <a href="#"><u>more work on European security and defence</u></a>, urging the region to “spend better and cooperate more”.</p> <p>In a statement published late in the evening, Borrell says:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">“This war has also been a wake-up call for all of us about our military capabilities. We have given weapons to Ukraine, but in so doing, we realised that our military stockpiles have been depleted.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">With conventional war returning to the heart of Europe, we also realised that we are lacking critical defence capabilities, to be able to protect ourselves from a higher level of threats on the European continent itself.”</p>

- 12 December 2022      The EU agrees an additional €2bn in support to a fund used to supply Ukraine with weapons.
- EU foreign ministers meeting in Brussels signed off the money for the “European Peace Facility”, a fund that has been largely used to reimburse member states for supplying Ukraine with weapons and non-lethal military kit.
- “This decision sends a clear political signal of the EU’s enduring commitment to military support for Ukraine and other partners alike,” the EU Council of Ministers said in a statement.
- G7 leaders, joined by President Zelenskyy, hold a meeting and reaffirm their “unwavering support for – and solidarity with – Ukraine in the face of ongoing Russian war of aggression for as long as it takes”.
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- 14 December 2022      German Chancellor Olaf Scholz says it is in the interest of Germany and Europe for the remaining Balkan states to become EU member states and welcomes the decision to grant Bosnia candidate status.
- Supporters of the EU’s eastward expansion argue the bloc’s engagement with the western Balkans is vital for protecting European security in the face of Russian aggression. Croatia is currently the only western Balkan state that has secured EU membership and the process of joining can take many years.
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- 19 December 2022      Addressing a meeting in Latvia of leaders of countries in the Joint Expeditionary Force, which includes the UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, Zelenskyy says:
- “Russian aggression can and must fail. The task now is to make sure it happens faster. I call upon you to do everything to accelerate the defeat of the occupiers.”
- President Putin discusses closer military cooperation with his Belarusian counterpart, Alexander Lukashenko, during a rare visit to the country, as fears grow in Kyiv that Moscow is pushing its closest ally to join a new ground offensive against Ukraine.

21 December 2022	<p>President Biden and President Zelenskyy hold bilateral meetings at the White House in which additional defence aid to Ukraine is discussed. <a href="#">Biden announces a new \$1.85 billion aid package which will include a Patriot missile battery.</a></p>
	<p>This is Zelenskyy's first trip outside Ukraine since Russia's invasion of Ukraine began 300 days ago.</p>
	<p>In a later <a href="#">address to the US Congress</a>, Zelenskyy emphasises US aid will help Ukraine to secure a victory that will make the world safer.</p>
26 December 2022	<p><a href="#">Ukraine calls for Russia to be removed as a permanent member of the UN Security Council</a>, arguing Moscow's "illegitimate" presence in the UN has been "marked by wars and seizures of other countries' territories".</p>
	<p>In a statement, <a href="#">the Ukrainian foreign ministry says</a>:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">"Ukraine calls on the member states of the UN ... to deprive the Russian Federation of its status as a permanent member of the UN security council and to exclude it from the UN as a whole."</p>
29 December 2022	<p>The Ukrainian ambassador to Belarus is summoned to the foreign ministry in Minsk to receive a formal protest amid a <a href="#">Ukrainian air defence missile straying into Belarussian air space</a>.</p>
	<p>Belarus' foreign ministry spokesperson Anatoly Glaz views the incident as extremely serious, adding:</p>
	<p style="padding-left: 40px;">"We demanded that the Ukrainian side conduct a thorough investigation ... [and] hold those responsible to account and take comprehensive measures to prevent the recurrence of such incidents in the future."</p>
30 December 2022	<p>Russia's <a href="#">President Putin invites his Chinese counterpart, Xi Jinping, to make a state visit to Russia</a> the following spring, as Moscow seeks to deepen its ties with China amid growing international isolation over the war in Ukraine. Speaking to Xi via a videoconference, Putin says Russia's ties with China are the "best in history".</p>
31 December 2022	<p>President Putin uses his New Year address to the nation to <a href="#">accuse Western countries of aggression</a></p>

and trying to use the conflict in Ukraine to undermine Moscow.

Echoing his repeated contention that Moscow had no choice but to send troops into Ukraine, Putin says:

“It was a year of difficult, necessary decisions, the most important steps toward gaining full sovereignty of Russia and powerful consolidation of our society.”

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11 January 2023      Speaking in a televised meeting with officials, President Putin says the situation in the regions of Ukraine that had been annexed by Russia Ukrainian regions was “difficult in places”.

President Zelenskyy urges NATO to do more than just promise Ukraine its door is open and that Ukraine needs “powerful steps” as it tries to join the alliance.

Speaking in Lviv, Zelenskyy said:

“For today, just support for Ukraine from colleagues in NATO and support in the form of rhetoric about open doors is not enough for Ukraine. Namely, not enough to motivate our state ... our soldiers.”

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14 January 2023      Prime Minister Rishi Sunak confirms the UK is planning to provide Ukraine with a small number of Challenger 2 tanks.

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16 January 2023      In a statement to the House of Commons, Defence Secretary Ben Wallace says the UK’s decision to send Challenger 2 tanks to Ukraine is a “calibrated response to Russia’s growing aggression and indiscriminate bombing”, adding “None of the international support for Ukraine is an attack on Russia, or NATO-orchestrated aggression, let alone a proxy war.”

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17 January 2023      Speaking at the annual World Economic Forum in Davos, Finland’s Prime Minister Sanna Marin says Finland is prepared to support Ukraine in its war with Russia for “as long as needed”. This could be “One year, two years, five years, 10 years, 15 years.”

In 2022 the Finnish government spent about €300m on support to Ukraine, with €190m towards buying defence equipment.

18 January 2023	President Zelenskyy addresses the World Economic Forum and <u>urges world leaders to quickly supply Ukraine's army with heavy tanks</u> . He reminds world leaders that his country did not start the war, adding:
	“The supplying of Ukraine with air defence systems must outpace Russia’s next missile attacks. The restoration of security and peace in Ukraine must outpace Russia’s attacks on security and peace in other countries.”
25 January 2023	Germany confirms it will make <u>14 Leopard 2 tanks available for Ukraine's war effort</u> .  US President <u>Joe Biden also approves tanks being made available to Ukraine</u> , pledging 31 M1 Abrams in a significant escalation in the US effort to counter Russian aggression. Until now, the US has resisted providing its own M1 Abrams tanks to Ukraine, citing extensive and complex maintenance and logistical challenges with the hi-tech vehicles.
26 January 2023	The US designates the Russian mercenary group Wagner as a “significant transnational criminal organisation”, <u>imposing further sanctions on the military contractor</u> which has been aiding Moscow in its invasion of Ukraine, according to the US Department of the Treasury.
30 January 2023	Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan says for the first time Ankara could <u>accept Finland into NATO without its Nordic neighbour Sweden</u> . Erdoğan’s televised comments come days after Turkey suspended NATO accession talks with the two countries.  NATO Secretary-General <u>Jens Stoltenberg urges South Korea to increase military support to Ukraine</u> , suggesting it reconsider its policy of not exporting weapons to countries in conflict.  Speaking at the Chey Institute for Advanced Studies in Seoul on Monday, Stoltenberg thanked South Korea for its non-lethal aid to Ukraine but urged it to do more as there is an “urgent need” for ammunition.  Ukraine’s Prime Minister, Denys Shmyhal, tells Politico he wants the country to <u>join the EU within two</u>

years, a tight timetable that the EU is likely to find over-ambitious.

During Defence Questions in the House of Commons, Ben Wallace says the 14 Challenger tanks the UK will donate to Ukraine will arrive on the frontline in the next few months: “It’ll be this side of the summer, or May - it’ll be probably towards Easter time.”

The President of Croatia, Zoran Milanović, criticises Western countries for supplying Ukraine with heavy tanks and other weapons, saying this “prolongs the war”. He added “it is clear that Crimea will never again be part of Ukraine.”

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31 January 2023	Belarussian President Lukashenko, on a state visit to Russian ally Zimbabwe, says his country is <u>willing to offer more assistance to Russia</u> in its war against Ukraine, although stressing Russia does not need “any help” right now.  Western allies quash hopes from Kyiv that fighter jets will soon be offered to help Ukraine’s war effort.
	US President Biden, when asked at the White House late if his country would provide F-16s, answered with a simple “no”, with a Downing St spokesperson saying the UK viewed the gifting of fighter jets as impractical: “These are sophisticated pieces of equipment. We do not think it is practical to send those jets into Ukraine.”
1 February 2023	NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg warns <u>Russia and China’s growing relationship poses a threat to both Asia and Europe</u> . In a speech to Keio University in Tokyo, Stoltenberg underlined the importance of stronger cooperation, adding the war in Ukraine demonstrated “security is not regional buy global.”
2 February 2023	During a two-day visit to Kyiv with over a dozen senior EU officials, European Commission president Ursula von der Leyen <u>announces an international centre for the prosecution of crimes in Ukraine</u> will be set up in The Hague.

Von der Leyen said:

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“It will coordinate the collection of evidence, it will be embedded in the joint investigation team which is supported by our agency Eurojust.”

The European Commission president also reiterated the EU aims to have a tenth package of sanctions against Russia in place by 24 February, the first anniversary of the invasion of Ukraine.

The visit tied with [EU pledges to double a military aid programme for Ukraine](#) by training an additional 15,000 soldiers as part of a series of announcements aimed at showing the EU will “stand by Ukraine for the long-haul”.

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5 February 2023	<p>The UK Foreign Secretary James Cleverly, in an article in the Times of Malta, says <a href="#"><u>helping to arm Ukraine so it can defend itself against Russia is the swiftest path to achieving peace</u></a>:</p> <p>“Like all authoritarian rulers, Putin responds only to strength in his opponents. He rejected Volodymyr Zelenskyy’s 10-point plan for peace last December. That is why the UK and Ukraine’s friends are doing all they can to bring Ukraine success on the battlefield. And it’s why I’m delighted that Germany and the US are joining the UK in sending tanks to the Ukrainians. Giving the Ukrainians the tools they need to finish the job is the swiftest – indeed the only – path to peace.”</p>
8 February 2023	<p><a href="#"><u>President Zelenskyy visits the UK</u></a> to meet the Prime Minister, address Parliament, meet the King and visit Ukrainian troops.</p> <p>In his address to members of both the Commons and the Lords in Westminster Hall, <a href="#"><u>Zelenskyy appealed to the UK to supply Ukraine with fighter jets</u></a>, saying: “I appeal to you and the world with simple and yet most important words: Combat aircrafts – for Ukraine! Wings – for freedom!”</p>
9 February 2023	<p>President Zelenskyy addresses the European Parliament during an extraordinary plenary session in Brussels.</p> <p>Opening the session, European Parliament President Roberta Metsola said to President Zelenskyy: “<a href="#"><u>We understand that you are fighting not only for your values, but for ours.</u></a>”</p>

Zelenskyy's address was largely themed around [Ukraine's hopes for future EU membership](#), highlighting their shared values and history.

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14 February 2023	NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg says it is more important that Finland and Sweden's applications to join the alliance, seeking greater security after Russia's invasion of Ukraine, were <a href="#">ratified quickly than together</a> .  Both countries applied to join NATO following Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February 2022 and their membership bids have been ratified by all allies except Hungary and Turkey.
15 February 2023	<a href="#">Sweden's Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson meets Ukraine's President Zelenskyy</a> on a visit to Kyiv.  Zelenskyy praised Sweden's cooperation since the Russian invasion of his country and they discussed further military assistance and future Ukrainian membership of the EU. President Zelenskyy noted:  “In the first half of this year, Sweden holds the Presidency of the Council of the European Union, so a significant part of our talks today was devoted to pan-European issues. Together with the Swedish Presidency, we must ensure everything necessary to start negotiations on Ukraine's membership in the European Union this year.”  At a press conference Kristersson does not rule out sending Gripen fighter jets to aid Ukraine in its war effort but cautions the West's response has to be coordinated. He says:  “We are not ruling anything out. But at the same time, an international agreement is needed to take further steps.”
16 February 2023	<a href="#">Norway's parliament announces it will donate 75 billion kroner (£6.1bn) to Ukraine</a> as part of a five-year support package, making Norway one of the world's biggest donors to Kyiv. The money will be split evenly between military and humanitarian assistance over five years.  Alexander Lukashenko, the Belarusian President, says he will <a href="#">order his troops to fight alongside Russia</a>

if another country launches an attack against Belarus.

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- 17 February 2023      World leaders, military officers and diplomats gather in Germany for the Munich security conference to discuss Europe's security situation following Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Some 40 heads of state and government, as well as politicians and security experts from almost 100 countries, will attend the three-day conference.
- French President Emmanuel Macron says there can be [no peace in Ukraine until Russia is defeated](#) and warned Europe had to be ready for a prolonged conflict: "The hour of dialogue hasn't come yet, because Russia chose war. Russia chose to target civilian infrastructure and commit war crimes. Russia's attack must fail."
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- 18 February 2023      In his speech to the Munich Security Conference, UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak says [now is the time to “double down” on its support for Ukraine](#).
- Sunak noted the West's "collective efforts are making a difference", but that "with every day that passes, Russia's forces are inflicting yet more pain and suffering".
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- 19 February 2023      In an interview with Italian newspaper Corriere della Sera, President [Zelenskyy accuses his French counterpart, Emmanuel Macron, of wasting his time considering peace talks with Russia](#). Responding to a suggestion the conflict in Ukraine would have to be settled by negotiations, Zelenskyy said:
- "It will be a useless dialogue. In fact, Macron is wasting his time. I have come to the conclusion that we are not able to change the Russian attitude."
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- 20 February 2023      President [Biden visits the Ukrainian capital, Kyiv](#), to meet President Zelenskyy and announces a new package of additional US weapons supplies worth \$500m (£415m).
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- 21 February 2023      [China's Foreign Minister accuses the US](#) of shifting blame for the Ukraine war on to China, in an apparent pushback against warnings from
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Washington that China is considering supplying weapons to Russia.

Speaking at the launch of a Chinese government paper on its global security initiative, Qin Gang says China is “deeply concerned” about the war in Ukraine escalating and possibly “spiralling out of control”.

President Putin gives a long televised national address to the joint houses of the Russian Parliament, in which he blames the West for starting the war in Ukraine and announces [Russia will suspend the New START bilateral nuclear treaty with the US.](#)

NATO’s Secretary-General, Jens Stoltenberg, says he regrets Russia’s decision to suspend its participation in the New START treaty and urges Moscow to reconsider.

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22 February 2023	<p>President <a href="#"><u>Putin revokes a 2012 decree that in part underpins Moldova's sovereignty</u></a> in resolving the future of the Transdniestria region – a Moscow-backed separatist region which borders Ukraine and where Russia maintains troops.</p> <p><a href="#"><u>China's top diplomat, Wang Yi, meets President Putin</u></a> in Moscow, as China and Russia reaffirm their close bilateral relationship ahead of the one-year anniversary of Russia’s invasion of Ukraine.</p> <p>In Poland, <a href="#"><u>President Biden meets the leaders of the Bucharest Nine</u></a> (B9), a collection of nations on the most eastern parts of the NATO alliance and closest to Russia. The alliance includes Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania and Slovakia.</p>
23 February 2023	<p>In an address to mark the “Defender of the Fatherland” holiday, President Putin says <a href="#"><u>Russia will deploy its new Sarmat intercontinental ballistic missile</u></a>, nicknamed “Satan 2”, as well as roll out hypersonic missiles and new nuclear submarines.</p> <p>The <a href="#"><u>UN General Assembly adopts a new resolution calling for the ending of the war in Ukraine</u></a> and demanding Russia’s immediate withdrawal from the country, in line with the UN Charter.</p>

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141 Member States voted in favour and seven against - Belarus, Eritrea, Mali, Nicaragua, North Korea, Russia and Syria. Among the 32 abstentions were China, India and Pakistan.

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24 February 2023      First anniversary of Russia's invasion into Ukraine.

[China releases a new 12-point position paper](#) outlining its stance on the Ukraine conflict, mostly reiterating Beijing's existing standpoint on the conflict, while portraying China as a neutral party and urging the two sides to enter into peace negotiations.

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