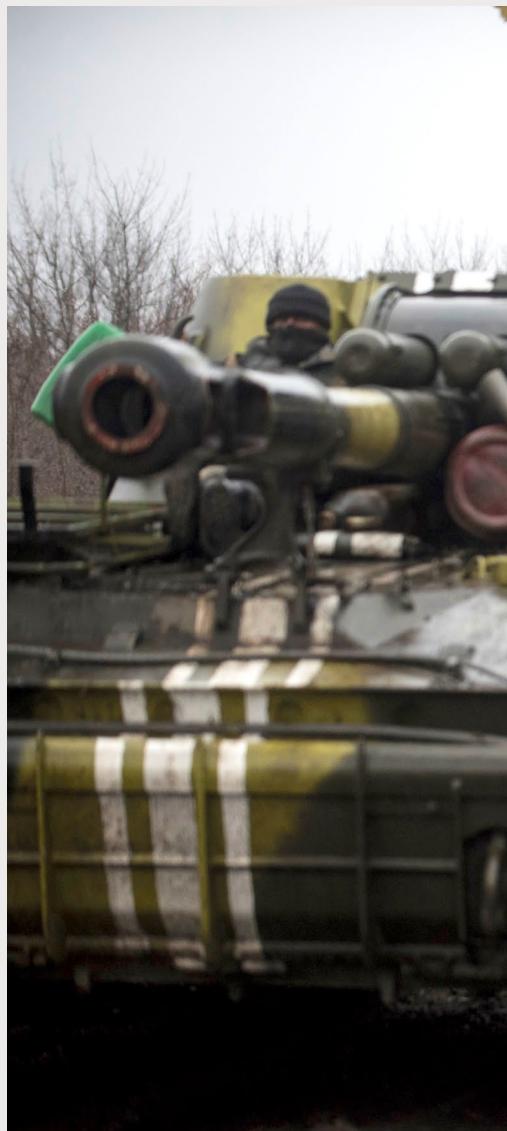


## Research Briefing

16 July 2024

By Nigel Walker

# Conflict in Ukraine: A timeline (current conflict, 2022-present)



## Summary

- 1 24 February 2022 – May 2022
- 2 June - August 2022
- 3 September - November 2022
- 4 December 2022 – February 2023
- 5 March – May 2023
- 6 June – August 2023
- 7 September – November 2023
- 8 December 2023 – February 2024
- 9 March – May
- 10 June 2024 - present

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# Contents

<b>Summary</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>1      24 February 2022 – May 2022</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>2      June - August 2022</b>	<b>32</b>
<b>3      September - November 2022</b>	<b>39</b>
<b>4      December 2022 – February 2023</b>	<b>50</b>
<b>5      March – May 2023</b>	<b>62</b>
<b>6      June – August 2023</b>	<b>73</b>
<b>7      September – November 2023</b>	<b>81</b>
<b>8      December 2023 – February 2024</b>	<b>87</b>
<b>9      March – May</b>	<b>90</b>
<b>10     June 2024 - present</b>	<b>93</b>

## Summary

The current conflict in Ukraine began on 24 February 2022 when Russian military forces entered the country from Belarus, Russia and Crimea.

Prior to the invasion, there had already been eight years of conflict in eastern Ukraine between Ukrainian Government forces and Russia-backed separatists.

This paper provides a timeline of the major events that happened in the conflict in Ukraine since the 2022 Russian invasion.

A timeline covering events during the prior eight years is available in Commons Library research briefing CBP-9476, [Conflict in Ukraine: A timeline \(2014 - eve of 2022 invasion\)](#).

**Note:** There was a change of government in the UK following the General Election on 4 July 2024. All references to the Prime Minister and other ministers, and UK government policies, are correct as of the date of each entry.

1

## 24 February 2022 – 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 “stauch 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

In an early morning address (just before 3am, UK time) on Russian state television, President Putin announces Russian forces will carry out “[a special military operation](#)” in Ukraine.

Ukraine’s President Zelenskyy then makes an urgent [national address](#), introducing martial law, while urging people to remain calm. Ukraine’s airspace is also closed.

Zelenskyy decrees a full military mobilisation against the Russian military action, as he [criticises](#) the West and says Ukraine is being left on its own to fight Russia.

In a [statement](#) 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.

The Foreign Office [publishes](#) 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, [announces](#) visa concessions for Ukrainians.

In an [address to the nation](#), 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”.

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25 February 2022

Ukraine’s President, Volodymyr Zelenskyy, gives an early morning [address](#) 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.”

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

The 47-nation [Council of Europe announces](#) Russia will be suspended with “immediate effect” from the

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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 <a href="#">fighting breaks out</a> 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 <a href="#">agree to remove</a> "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 <a href="#">ready for peace talks</a> with Russia, but not in Belarus. He describes the country as a staging ground for Russia's invasion.
	President Putin makes a televised address, <a href="#">saluting</a> the "heroism" of Russian special forces in what he <a href="#">describes</a> as a "special operation to provide assistance to the people's republics of the Donbas".

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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.

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

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	<p>President Zelenskyy <a href="#">tells the European Parliament</a> 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.</p> <p>Russia’s defence ministry <a href="#">warns Kyiv residents</a> to leave their homes as it plans to strike targets in the Ukrainian capital.</p> <p>President Zelenskyy <a href="#">urges Western nations</a> to enforce a “no-fly zone” as a measure to stop any further bombardment by Russia, but the US rules out such a measure.</p> <p>The UK Government <a href="#">pledges</a> a further £80 million in aid to help Ukraine deal with humanitarian crisis and <a href="#">announces</a> further sanctions against Russia, including banning Russian ships from UK ports and additional economic measures. The Foreign Secretary also unveils the first tranche of <a href="#">sanctions against Belarusian individuals and organisations</a>, in response to Belarus’ role in supporting Russia’s military action against Ukraine.</p>
2 March 2022	<p>The UN <a href="#">votes</a> 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.</p>

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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, [reveals ten million people – more than a quarter of Ukraine’s population – have now fled their homes:](#)

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.

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21 March 2022

Komsomolskaya Pravda, a pro-Kremlin tabloid, says [almost 10,000 Russian soldiers have been killed in Ukraine](#): “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 [accuses Russian forces of committing war crimes](#) 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.

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22 March 2022

UN Secretary-General António Guterres delivers a stark message to Russia: “[This war is unwinnable.](#)” He urges an immediate ceasefire and a diplomatic solution to the crisis.

A senior US defence official says [Russia’s combat power in Ukraine has declined below 90% of its pre-invasion levels](#) for the first time since its attack began, suggesting heavy losses of weaponry and growing casualties.

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23 March 2022

[Russia warns NATO of dire consequences](#) 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 [between 7,000 and 15,000 Russian soldiers have been killed](#) since it commenced military operations against Ukraine a month earlier.

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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.

25 March 2022	The US National Security Advisor, Jake Sullivan, reveals the <a href="#">US and NATO are doing contingency planning</a> for any possible Russian attack on NATO territory.
	Russia's defence ministry says the <a href="#">first phase of its military operation in Ukraine is generally complete</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="#">use of nuclear weapons in its military campaign in Ukraine</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="#">no plans for regime change in Russia</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="#">alarming</a> ".  Speaking to Russian journalists in a 90-minute video call, President Zelenskyy says <a href="#">Ukraine is prepared to discuss adopting a neutral status</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="#">Ukraine has suffered \$564.9bn (£429.3bn) of damage</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="#">Sergei Lavrov says</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,

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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 à 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, [China criticises Western actions](#), 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”

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20 April 2022      Figures by the UN’s refugee agency (UNHCR) show the number of [Ukrainians who have fled abroad since Russia invaded on 24 February is now 5,010,971](#).  
  
[Finance ministers from the UK, US, Canada and France walk out of a G20 meeting](#) as the Russian delegate speaks. The UK’s Chancellor of the Exchequer, [Rishi Sunak, says the walkout was a coordinated protest](#), 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.”

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21 April 2022      The parliaments of both [Estonia and Latvia recognise Russia’s actions in Ukraine as “genocide”](#).  
  
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.”

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22 April 2022      Following its temporary closure, the UK government announces the [British Embassy in Kyiv will reopen](#) in the following week.

UK Prime Minister [Boris Johnson reveals dozens of Ukrainian soldiers are training in the UK](#), 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> .

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6 May 2022	<p>The <a href="#">UN Security Council issues its first statement on the war in Ukraine</a>, but withholds from using the words “war”, “conflict” or “invasion”.</p> <p>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”.</p> <p>At the Security Council meeting, the <a href="#">UK condemns Russia's continued aggression</a> towards Ukraine.</p> <hr/>
8 May 2022	<p>US First Lady <a href="#">Jill Biden makes an unannounced visit to western Ukraine</a> to visit her Ukrainian counterpart, Olena Zelenska to show US support on Mother’s Day.</p> <p>Meanwhile the Canadian Prime Minister, <a href="#">Justin Trudeau, also makes an unannounced trip to Ukraine</a>, visiting the town of Irpin.</p> <hr/>
9 May 2022	<p>Speaking to the European Parliament in Strasbourg, France’s <a href="#">President Macron says Ukraine's bid to join the EU will “take several years indeed, probably several decades”</a>.</p> <p>In a national address in the evening, Ukraine’s President Zelenskyy confirms he <a href="#">submitted the second part of a formal questionnaire to obtain candidacy for membership in the EU</a> during a video call with European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen.</p> <hr/>
10 May 2022	<p>The UN’s migration agency says <a href="#">more than 8 million people had been internally displaced in Ukraine</a> since the Russian invasion began on 24 February.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>The Belarusian Chief of General Staff, Viktor Gulevich, announces his forces will <a href="#">deploy special operations troops in three areas near its southern border with Ukraine</a> in response to a “growing threat” by the US and its allies.</p> <hr/>

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 Erdogan, [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.

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25 May 2022 Members of the Russian State Duma [vote to approve a new law that will eliminate age limits for military contract soldiers](#). 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 [Putin signs a decree](#) simplifying the process for residents of Ukraine's Russian-occupied Kherson and Zaporizhzhia regions to acquire Russian citizenship and passports.

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27 May 2022 [Russia blames Ukraine for the stalling of peace talks](#) between the two countries, claiming Ukraine's President Zelenskyy "constantly makes contradictory statements".

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30 May 2022 The [European Council says it is ready to grant Ukraine €9bn](#) 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".

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## 2

# 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 Zelensky.

**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 Zelensky 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.

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 <a href="#">NATO is concerned about Beijing's ever closer ties with Moscow</a> .
29 June 2022	<p><a href="#">Syria became the first nation other than Russia to formally recognise the two separatist republics in eastern Ukraine</a>.</p> <p>In response, President Zelenskyy announces the end of diplomatic ties between Ukraine and Syria, adding the sanctions pressure against Syria “will be even greater”.</p>
30 June 2022	At the NATO Leaders' Summit, the <a href="#">Prime Minister announces a further £1 billion package of military support to Ukraine</a> . This brings the total of UK military and economic support to £3.8 billion this year.
1 July 2022	In a <a href="#">speech via video link to Ukraine's parliament</a> , 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	<p><a href="#">Ukraine's Prime Minister Denys Shmyhal puts a \$750bn (£620bn) price tag on the recovery of his country</a> at the Ukraine Recovery Conference hosted by Switzerland.</p> <p>Shmyhal also tells the conference Ukraine has so far suffered more than \$100bn of direct damage to its infrastructure.</p>
5 July 2022	<p>In a written statement, the UK Defence Secretary <a href="#">Ben Wallace says the first rotation of Ukrainian soldiers has arrived in the UK for training</a>; part of a £2.3bn military aid package that includes a programme to train up to 10,000 new Ukrainian recruits.</p> <p>The 30 <a href="#">NATO member states sign accession protocols for Finland and Sweden</a>, sending the membership</p>

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 <a href="#"><u>Beijing is willing to deepen cooperation with Russia within multilateral frameworks including the G20.</u></a>
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7 July 2022	In his resignation speech outside Downing Street, <a href="#"><u>Boris Johnson says he is “immensely proud” of the achievements of his government</u></a> , including “leading the West in standing up to Putin’s aggression in Ukraine”, adding:
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“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	<a href="#"><u>North Korea officially recognises the self-proclaimed Donetsk People’s Republic and the self-proclaimed Luhansk People’s Republic</u></a> , 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.
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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, <a href="#">President Zelenskyy urges European and International Criminal Court officials to open a “special tribunal”</a> to investigate Russia’s invasion of his country.
15 July 2022	<p>The <a href="#">Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office summons the Russian Ambassador</a>, 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:</p> <p>“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.”</p>
19 July 2022	<p>Dmitry Medvedev, Russia’s former President who is now Deputy Head of its Security Council says <a href="#">peace in Ukraine, when it comes, will be on Moscow’s terms</a> 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.”</p> <p>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:</p> <p>“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.</p> <p>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.”</p>
1 August 2022	<a href="#">Russia bans 39 senior British politicians, businesspeople and journalists</a> 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 [more than 10.5 million people have crossed the border from Ukraine](#) since Russia's invasion began on 24 February.

US President [Biden signs the documents of ratification](#) to formally back Finland and Sweden in joining the NATO alliance, saying:

“In seeking to join NATO, Finland and Sweden are making a sacred commitment that an attack against one is an attack against all.”

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15 August 2022      President [Putin tells North Korean leader Kim Jong Un](#) the two countries will “expand the comprehensive and constructive bilateral relations with common efforts”.

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.

Putin also says [Moscow values its ties with countries in Latin America, Asia and Africa](#) and is ready to offer modern weapons to its allies.

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23 August 2022      Prime Minister [Boris Johnson urges world leaders not to allow President Putin to repeat the annexation of Crimea in other parts of Ukraine](#).

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”.

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24 August 2022      The UK Prime Minister visits Ukraine to [announce further military support](#), noting: “What happens in Ukraine matters to us all. That is why I am in Kyiv today.”

The latest £54m support package includes unmanned surveillance and missile systems for the Ukrainian military.

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27 August 2022      [Russia blocks an agreement at the UN](#) that is aimed at bolstering the nuclear non-proliferation treaty

(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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## 3

# 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.

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.”

16 September 2022	The UN food chief says the world is facing “ <a href="#">a global emergency of unprecedented magnitude</a> ,” with up to 345 million people at risk of starvation and 70 million pushed closer to starvation by the war in Ukraine.
18 September 2022	The first lady of Ukraine, <a href="#">Olena Zelenska, pays her respects to the late Queen Elizabeth II’s lying in state</a> at Westminster Hall, before attending a reception with the Princess of Wales at Buckingham Palace.
21 September 2022	President <a href="#">Zelenskyy speaks virtually to the UN General Assembly</a> 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.”
22 September 2022	In a special <a href="#">Foreign Minister-level UN Security Council meeting on Ukraine</a> , James Cleverly reiterates the <a href="#">UK’s full and unwavering commitment to Ukraine’s sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity</a> .  <a href="#">Russia’s Foreign Minister briefly attends the meeting</a> to give his speech, before promptly walking out.
24 September 2022	Iran’s ministry spokesperson, <a href="#">Nasser Kanaani, warns Ukraine</a> 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 <a href="#">nine NATO countries in central and eastern Europe declare they will never recognise the annexation by Russia of Ukrainian territory</a> .  <a href="#">The statement</a> – 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.”
5 October 2022	President Putin <a href="#">signs the laws to formally absorb four Ukrainian regions into Russia</a> . 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.”
10 October 2022	At a UN General Assembly Emergency Special Session on Ukraine, the UK Ambassador urges UN member states “ <a href="#">to condemn the largest forcible annexation attempt since the Second World War</a> ”.
11 October 2022	G7 leaders hold a meeting “ <a href="#">to reiterate the unity of opposition to Putin’s continued brutality in Ukraine</a> ”.

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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	<p>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.</p> <p>In the call, Wallace refutes claims that Ukraine, facilitated by Western countries including the UK, were planning to escalate the conflict in Ukraine.</p>
24 October 2022	<p><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.</p> <p>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.</p>
25 October 2022	<p>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.</p>
27 October 2022	<p>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>.</p> <p>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.</p>
3 November 2022	<p>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.</p>
5 November 2022	<p><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.</p>
8 November 2022	<p>US National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan confirms <a href="#">communication channels between Washington and Moscow remain open</a>.</p>

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.

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.”

19 November 2022	In his first visit to Kyiv, Prime Minister Rishi Sunak meets President Zelenskyy and confirms the <a href="#">UK will provide a new package of air defence</a> 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 <a href="#">video address to NATO Parliamentary Assembly's annual session in Madrid</a> , 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 <a href="#">“state sponsor of terrorism”</a> .  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 <a href="#">show their support for Ukraine</a> .  UK Foreign Secretary, <a href="#">James Cleverly, meets Ukraine's first lady Olena Zelenska</a> 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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## 4

# December 2022 – February 2023

## 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.

**24 February 2023:** First anniversary of Russia’s invasion into Ukraine.

China releases a 12-point position paper outlining its stance on the Ukraine conflict, portraying itself as a neutral party and urging the two sides to enter into peace negotiations.

2 December 2022

Finland's Prime Minister, Sanna Marin, calls for [Europe to build its own defence capabilities](#) in the wake of the war in Ukraine, so as to have resilience without US support:

“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.”

3 December 2022

The Ukrainian Foreign Minister, Dmytro Kuleba, accuses Russia of orchestrating a series of [letters containing explosives or animal parts](#) that were sent to 17 Ukrainian embassies or diplomatic missions around the world in recent days.

8 December 2022

Speaking to members of his personal human rights council, President Putin admits [Russia's war in Ukraine could turn into a “long-term process”](#).

10 December 2022

In an interview with Norwegian broadcaster NRK, the head of NATO expresses [concerns that the fighting in Ukraine could spin out of control and become a war between Russia and NATO](#):

“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.”

11 December 2022

The EU foreign policy chief, [Josep Borrell, calls for more work on European security and defence](#), urging the region to “spend better and cooperate more”.

In a statement published late in the evening, Borrell says:

“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.

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.”

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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

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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.

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21 December 2022 President Biden and President Zelenskyy hold bilateral meetings at the White House in which additional defence aid to Ukraine is discussed. [Biden announces a new \\$1.85 billion aid package which will include a Patriot missile battery.](#)

This is Zelenskyy's first trip outside Ukraine since Russia's invasion of Ukraine began 300 days ago.

In a later [address to the US Congress](#), Zelenskyy emphasises US aid will help Ukraine to secure a victory that will make the world safer.

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26 December 2022 [Ukraine calls for Russia to be removed as a permanent member of the UN Security Council](#), arguing Moscow's "illegitimate" presence in the UN has been "marked by wars and seizures of other countries' territories".

In a statement, [the Ukrainian foreign ministry says](#):

"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."

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29 December 2022 The Ukrainian ambassador to Belarus is summoned to the foreign ministry in Minsk to receive a formal protest amid a [Ukrainian air defence missile straying into Belarussian air space](#).

Belarus' foreign ministry spokesperson Anatoly Glaz views the incident as extremely serious, adding:

"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."

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30 December 2022 Russia's [President Putin invites his Chinese counterpart, Xi Jinping, to make a state visit to Russia](#) 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".

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31 December 2022 President Putin uses his New Year address to the nation to accuse Western countries of aggression 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.

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18 January 2023

President Zelenskyy addresses the World Economic Forum and urges world leaders to quickly supply Ukraine’s army with heavy tanks. 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.”

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25 January 2023

Germany confirms it will make 14 Leopard 2 tanks available for Ukraine’s war effort.

US President Joe Biden also approves tanks being made available to Ukraine, 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.

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26 January 2023

The US designates the Russian mercenary group Wagner as a “significant transnational criminal organisation”, imposing further sanctions on the military contractor which has been aiding Moscow in its invasion of Ukraine, according to the US Department of the Treasury.

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30 January 2023

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoan says for the first time Ankara could accept Finland into NATO without its Nordic neighbour Sweden. Erdoan’s televised comments come days after Turkey suspended NATO accession talks with the two countries.

NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg urges South Korea to increase military support to Ukraine, suggesting it reconsider its policy of not exporting weapons to countries in conflict.

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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 [join the EU within two 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 [willing to offer more assistance to Russia](#) 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.”

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1 February 2023

NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg warns [Russia and China’s growing relationship poses a threat to both Asia and Europe](#). 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.”

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2 February 2023

During a two-day visit to Kyiv with over a dozen senior EU officials, European Commission president Ursula von der Leyen [announces an international](#)

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[centre for the prosecution of crimes in Ukraine](#) will be set up in The Hague.

Von der Leyen said:

“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

The UK Foreign Secretary James Cleverly, in an article in the Times of Malta, says [helping to arm Ukraine so it can defend itself against Russia is the swiftest path to achieving peace](#):

“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.”

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8 February 2023

[President Zelensky visits the UK](#) to meet the Prime Minister, address Parliament, meet the King and visit Ukrainian troops.

In his address to members of both the Commons and the Lords in Westminster Hall, [Zelenskyy appealed to the UK to supply Ukraine with fighter jets](#), saying: “I appeal to you and the world with simple and yet most important words: Combat aircrafts – for Ukraine! Wings – for freedom!”

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9 February 2023

President Zelenskyy addresses the European Parliament during an extraordinary plenary session in Brussels.

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Opening the session, European Parliament President Roberta Metsola said to President Zelenskyy: “[We understand that you are fighting not only for your values, but for ours.](#)”

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="#"><u>ratified quickly than together</u></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="#"><u>Sweden’s Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson meets Ukraine’s President Zelenskyy</u></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="#"><u>Norway’s parliament announces it will donate 75 billion kroner (£6.1bn) to Ukraine</u></a> as part of a five-year support package, making Norway one of the world’s biggest donors to Kyiv. The money will be

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split evenly between military and humanitarian assistance over five years.

Alexander Lukashenko, the Belarusian President, says he will [order his troops to fight alongside Russia](#) 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).

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 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

President [Putin revokes a 2012 decree that in part underpins Moldova's sovereignty](#) in resolving the future of the Transnistria region – a Moscow-backed separatist region which borders Ukraine and where Russia maintains troops.

[China's top diplomat, Wang Yi, meets President Putin](#) in Moscow, as China and Russia reaffirm their close bilateral relationship ahead of the one-year anniversary of Russia’s invasion of Ukraine.

In Poland, [President Biden meets the leaders of the Bucharest Nine](#) (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.

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23 February 2023

In an address to mark the “Defender of the Fatherland” holiday, President Putin says [Russia will deploy its new Sarmat intercontinental ballistic missile](#), nicknamed “Satan 2”, as well as roll out hypersonic missiles and new nuclear submarines.

The [UN General Assembly adopts a new resolution calling for the ending of the war in Ukraine](#) and

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demanding Russia's immediate withdrawal from the country, in line with the UN Charter.

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 begin peace negotiations.

[Ukraine cautiously welcomes the paper](#), with Zhanna Leshchynska, Ukraine's Chargé d'Affairs to China, saying Beijing should hold talks with both sides and not just Moscow.

Speaking to reporters in Estonia, NATO's Secretary-General says "[China “doesn’t have much credibility](#)" because they have not been able to condemn the illegal invasion of Ukraine."

Russia's foreign ministry spokesperson, Maria Zakharova, welcomes China's proposals, saying:

We appreciate the sincere desire of our Chinese friends to contribute to resolving the conflict in Ukraine by peaceful means... We share the views of Beijing.

However, Zakharova adds this will also mean recognising "new territorial realities" in Ukraine, referring to Russia's annexation of four Ukrainian regions – Donetsk, Luhansk, Kherson and Zaporizhzhia – as well as of Crimea.

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27 February 2023

In a news briefing, US State Department spokesperson Ned Price says [China has “very clearly” taken Russia’s side](#) and has been "anything but an honest broker" in efforts to bring peace to Ukraine.

Price adds that he hopes China "begins to use its influence in a constructive way".

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## 5

# March – May 2023

## Key events

**17 March 2023:** The International Criminal Court issues an arrest warrant for President Vladimir Putin.

**18 March 2023:** President Putin visits Crimea to mark the ninth anniversary of Russia's annexation of the peninsula.

**20-21 March 2023:** China's President Xi Jinping undertakes a state visit to Russia.

**25 March 2023:** Russia strikes a deal with neighbouring Belarus to station tactical nuclear weapons on its territory.

**4 April 2023:** Finland becomes the 31st member of NATO.

**20 April 2023:** NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg undertakes his first visit to Ukraine since Russia's invasion.

**15 May 2023:** President Zelenskyy travels to Chequers for talks with UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak.

**20 May 2023:** President Zelenskyy attends the G7 summit in Japan to discuss further military support.

1 March 2023

[Finland's parliament approves the country's bid to join NATO](#), with 184 members of the 200-seat parliament voting in favour, seven against and one abstaining.

The leaders of China and Belarus, [Xi Jinping and Alexander Lukashenko issue a joint statement calling for a ceasefire in Ukraine](#) and negotiations to bring about a political settlement to the conflict.

The statement expresses “deep concern about the development of the armed conflict in the European region and extreme interest in the soonest possible establishment of peace in Ukraine”.

2 March 2023	German Chancellor <a href="#">Olaf Scholz urges China not to send weapons to help Russia's war in Ukraine</a> and instead asks Beijing to exert pressure on Moscow to pull back its forces.  In a speech to the German parliament, Scholz says:  My message to Beijing is clear: use your influence in Moscow to urge the withdrawal of Russian troops. And don't deliver any weapons to the aggressor Russia.
	The <a href="#">US secretary of state, Antony Blinken, and Russia's foreign minister, Sergei Lavrov, meet on the margins of the G20 meeting in New Delhi</a> .  In a 10-minute meeting, understood to be their first one-to-one in person since Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, Blinken reiterates that the US is prepared to support Ukraine's defence for as long as it takes.  The G20 meeting in New Delhi ends without a joint statement being agreed. India had wanted to focus on issues affecting developing nations, but <a href="#">says the differences over Ukraine "could not be reconciled"</a> .
3 March 2023	<a href="#">US Attorney General Merrick Garland makes an unannounced trip to Ukraine</a> , traveling to Lviv following an invitation from the Ukrainian Prosecutor General to join international partners at the “United for Justice Conference”.
4 March 2023	Russia's Defence Minister, <a href="#">Sergei Shoigu, pays a rare visit to Russia's forces in Ukraine</a> , meeting senior commanders and awarding medals to military personnel.  Following a meeting with President Zelensky in Lyiv, Roberta Metsola, the <a href="#">President of the European Parliament, calls for Ukraine to be allowed to begin EU membership negotiations this year</a> . She adds: “Ukraine’s future is in the European Union.”
16 March 2023	During a visit to Moldova, UK Foreign Minister James Cleverly says the <a href="#">best way to protect Moldova from attack by Russia is to protect Ukraine</a> . He also announces an additional <a href="#">£10 million to support economic and governance reforms in Moldova</a> .

The UN-mandated Independent International Commission of Inquiry on Ukraine reports that [Russia has committed a wide range of war crimes in Ukraine](#), including wilful killings, systemic torture and the deportation of children.

[Poland's President, Andrzej Duda, says his country will give four MiG-29 fighter jets to Ukraine in the coming days](#), a move that will make Poland the first NATO member state to fulfil the Ukrainian government's requests for such aircraft.

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17 March 2023

[Slovakia's Prime Minister, Eduard Heger, approves a plan to give Ukraine its fleet of 13 Soviet-era MiG-29 fighter jets](#), becoming the second NATO member state to respond to President Zelenskyy's request.

In response, [Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov says Russia will destroy the fighter jets](#):

In the course of the special military operation all this equipment will be subject to destruction.

It feels like all of these countries are thus engaged in the disposal of old unnecessary equipment.

President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan says [Turkey's parliament will start the process of ratifying Finland's NATO membership bid](#), with Finland taking concrete steps to keep its promises on cracking down on those who Turkey views as being terrorists.

The [International Criminal Court \(ICC\) issues arrest warrants for President Vladimir Putin](#) and Russia's presidential commissioner for children's rights, Maria Alekseyevna Lvova-Belova.

In a statement, the ICC says there are "reasonable grounds" to believe Putin and Lvova-Belova bear "criminal responsibility" for the "war crime of unlawful deportation of population (children) and that of unlawful transfer of population (children) from occupied areas of Ukraine to the Russian Federation".

[Maria Zakharova, Russia's foreign ministry spokesperson, responds to the ICC arrest warrant against President Putin](#), saying:

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The decisions of the international criminal court have no meaning for our country, including from a legal point of view.

Russia is not a party to the Rome Statute of the international criminal court and bears no obligations under it.

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18 March 2023      [President Putin visits Crimea](#) to mark the ninth anniversary of Russia's annexation of the peninsula.

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20 March 2023      [Justice ministers from over 40 countries meet in London](#) to discuss raising funds for the International Criminal Court to pursue Russian war crimes in Ukraine.

China's President Xi Jinping arrives in Moscow for a two-day state visit, his first visit to Russia for four years. In remarks upon his arrival, President Xi says [China is ready with Russia “to stand guard over the world order based on international law”](#).

The US Secretary of State, Antony Blinken, voices scepticism over China's proposals to end the Ukraine conflict, saying [Xi's visit provides “diplomatic cover for Russia to continue to commit” war crimes](#).

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21 March 2023      Japan's Prime Minister, Fumio Kishida, visits President Zelenskyy in Kyiv to underscore Tokyo's support for Ukraine. [Kishida's visit means the leaders of all G7 nations have now visited Ukraine](#).

On the final day of his state visit to Russia, [Xi Jinping invites Vladimir Putin to visit China this year](#), in a symbolic show of support after the ICC issued an arrest warrant for the Russian president.

At the end of their formal talks, [Xi and Putin sign documents on strategic cooperation](#). Hua Chunying, a spokesperson for the Chinese foreign affairs ministry, says:

President Xi and President Putin signed a joint statement at the Kremlin on deepening the two countries' comprehensive strategic partnership of coordination for the new era. They stressed that the Ukraine crisis should be settled through peace talks.

22 March 2023

The International Monetary Fund says it has reached an agreement with Ukraine for a [four-year financing package worth \\$15.6 billion](#).

Responding to accusations from President Putin that the West was “beginning to use weapons with a nuclear component”, Foreign Secretary James Cleverly says [there is no “nuclear escalation” in the UK’s decision to supply Ukraine with tank shells made with depleted uranium.](#)

[Sweden’s parliament formally approves a bill to allow the country to join NATO](#) when its application has been ratified by all member states in the alliance.

The vote in the 349-seat Riksdagen passed overwhelmingly, with [296 members voting in favour and 37 against](#). 43 members were absent.

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23 March 2023

Addressing the EU summit via video link, Volodymyr Zelenskyy [renews his call for more long-range weapons and fighter jets from western allies.](#)

[Finland’s President, Sauli Niinistö, signs legislation to make his country part of NATO.](#)

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24 March 2023

The air forces of [Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden sign a letter of intent to create a unified Nordic air defence](#), to counter a rising threat from Russia.

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25 March 2023

[Russia strikes a deal with neighbouring Belarus to station tactical nuclear weapons on its territory.](#)

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27 March 2023

[Hungary’s parliament approves a bill to allow Finland to join NATO](#), with its members voting 182 in favour and only six against. Turkey is now the only NATO member state not to have ratified Finland’s accession.

The bill on Sweden’s NATO accession remains stranded in the Hungarian parliament, with a vote yet to be scheduled.

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28 March 2023

Belarus’ foreign ministry says it has been forced to house Russian nuclear weapons on its territory by the

aggressive actions of NATO countries that threatens Belarus's own security.

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) issues a set of recommendations that Russian and Belarusian athletes be allowed to compete in international sporting events under a neutral flag.

Several Ukrainian allies react angrily to the IOC's recommendations, with Poland's Deputy Foreign Minister, Piotr Wawzyk, calling it a "day of shame" for the Olympic body.

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29 March 2023	The <u>German government agrees to send an additional €12bn worth of military support to Ukraine</u> , in a further shift away from its traditional pacifist stance. €8bn will be spent directly on purchasing weapons and equipment for Ukraine, with the other €4bn going to the German military to replenish stocks.
30 March 2023	Ukraine's President Zelenskyy addresses the Austrian parliament via video link, thanking Austria for its humanitarian assistance and help with projects such as clearing landmines.  During Zelenskyy's speech, <u>members from Austria's pro-Russia Freedom Party walk out in protest</u> , saying Austria's neutrality prevents it from military involvement in the conflict and sending Ukraine weapons is a violation.
31 March 2023	<u>Turkey's parliament approves a bill to allow Finland to join NATO</u> , meaning all members states have now ratified Finland's membership bid.
1 April 2023	<u>Russia takes on the monthly presidency of the 15-member UN Security Council</u> , in line with a rotation unaffected by the Ukraine war.  Andriy Yermak, President Zelenskyy's chief of staff, criticises the move, calling it a " <u>symbolic blow to the rules-based system of international relations</u> ".
3 April 2023	Ahead of a meeting of NATO Foreign Ministers, the NATO Secretary-General says <u>allies have delivered Ukraine with €65bn (£57bn) of military aid</u> .

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4 April 2023	<p><a href="#">Finland becomes the 31st member of NATO</a>, with Pekka Haavisto, the Finnish foreign minister, completing the accession process by depositing its instrument of accession to the North Atlantic Treaty.</p>
5 April 2023	<p><a href="#">French President Emmanuel Macron and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen arrive in China for a three-day state visit</a> that will see them meet with Chinese President Xi Jinping.</p> <p>Speaking from the French embassy in Beijing, President Macron tells reporters that China can play a “major role” in the war in Ukraine and that Moscow should not be allowed to have an exclusive dialogue with Beijing.</p>
6 April 2023	<p><a href="#">President Macron says he and his Chinese counterpart, Xi Jinping, have discussed the war in Ukraine</a> and they agreed that nuclear weapons should be excluded from the Ukraine conflict.</p> <p>In her meeting with President Xi, Ursula von der Leyen says she encouraged him speak to Ukraine’s President Zelenskyy.</p> <p>On the second day of his visit to Russia, <a href="#">Belarus’ President Alexander Lukashenko co-chairs a meeting of the Supreme State Council of the Union State with President Putin</a>. They discuss expanding economic cooperation and bolstering defence ties between the two countries.</p>
11 April 2023	<p><a href="#">Ukraine’s Prime Minister Denys Shmyhal travels to Canada and meets Prime Minister Justin Trudeau</a>, who announces a package of additional military aid that Canada will provide to Ukraine.</p>
13 April 2023	<p><a href="#">Norway’s foreign ministry announces it will expel 15 Russian embassy officials in Oslo</a>, claiming they are intelligence officers operating under the cover of diplomatic positions.</p> <p><a href="#">In a statement, Norwegian Foreign Minister, Anniken Huitfeldt, says:</a></p> <p>The government’s decision is in response to the changed security situation in Europe, which has led to an increased intelligence threat from Russia.</p>

This is an important step in countering, and reducing the level of, Russian intelligence activity in Norway, and thus in safeguarding our national interests.

15 April 2023	<p>In a visit to China, the <a href="#">Brazilian president, Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, says</a> “the US needs to stop encouraging war and start talking about peace” between Ukraine and Russia.</p> <p>Lula also reveals he and President Xi discussed forming a group of like-minded leaders.</p>
16 April 2023	<p><a href="#">More than 100 Ukrainian prisoners of war are released</a> and returned home in a “great Easter exchange”, a senior Ukrainian presidential official says.</p>
19 April 2023	<p>Speaking at a lunch with Romanian President Klaus Iohannis, <a href="#">Brazil's President, Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, condemns the “violation of Ukraine’s territorial integrity” by Russia</a> and calls for mediation to end the war. This follows Lula receiving criticism for his previous comments on the conflict.</p>
20 April 2023	<p>NATO Secretary-General <a href="#">Jens Stoltenberg undertakes his first visit to Kyiv since Russia’s invasion of Ukraine 14 months earlier</a>.</p> <p>In a joint press conference with President Zelenskyy, <a href="#">Jens Stoltenberg underscores his commitment to Ukraine becoming a NATO member state</a>, saying:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Let me be clear: Ukraine’s rightful place is in the euro-Atlantic family. Ukraine’s rightful place is in NATO. And over time, our support will help you to make this possible.</p>
22 April 2023	<p>After a meeting with the Portuguese President, Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa, in Lisbon, <a href="#">Brazil's President Lula calls for a “negotiated” settlement to the Russia-Ukraine conflict</a>. He tells journalists:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">While my government condemns the violation of Ukraine’s territorial integrity, we support a negotiated political solution to the conflict.</p>
23 April 2023	<p>The Russian Foreign Minister, <a href="#">Sergei Lavrov, says Moscow “will not forgive” Washington for denying US</a></p>

visas to Russian journalists who were meant to accompany him on a visit to UN headquarters.

24 April 2023	<p><u>Sergei Lavrov chairs a UN Security Council meeting</u> on “Maintenance of international peace and security”, with the UN representatives from the US, the UK and Switzerland using their speeches to condemn Russia’s invasion of Ukraine.</p>
26 April 2023	<p>Following his first telephone conversation with President Zelenskyy, <u>Chinese President Xi Jinping announces he will send a delegation to Ukraine</u> to hold talks with all parties on resolving the conflict between Russia and Ukraine.</p>
11 May 2023	<p>The UK Defence Secretary, Ben Wallace, confirms reports that the <u>UK is providing Ukraine with long-range Storm Shadow missiles</u>.</p>
13 May 2023	<p><u>President Zelenskyy visits Italy</u> and the Vatican to hold talks with Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni, President Sergio Mattarella and Pope Francis.</p> <p>The trip is Zelenskyy’s first to Italy since Russia invaded Ukraine on 24 February 2022.</p> <p>In a joint press conference following her talks with Zelenskyy, <u>Giorgia Meloni promises Italy’s full support to Ukraine</u> in its efforts to repel Russia’s “brutal and unjust aggression”.</p>
14 May 2023	<p>President Zelenskyy visits Germany for talks with Chancellor Olaf Scholz and President Frank-Walter Steinmeier.</p> <p>On his first visit to Germany since Russia’s invasion, <u>Zelenskyy thanks Scholz for Germany’s “powerful support”</u> in the form of a new armaments package, saying “everything in this security package will significantly strengthen our defence.”</p> <p>Later, <u>Zelenskyy visits Paris for talks with President Emmanuel Macron</u>, with <u>France promising Ukraine dozens more light tanks and armoured vehicles</u>.</p>
15 May 2023	<p><u>Volodymyr Zelenskyy travels to Chequers</u>, the UK Prime Minister’s country retreat in Buckinghamshire for talks with Rishi Sunak.</p>

[Sunak confirms a further UK provision of hundreds of air defence missiles and further unmanned aerial systems](#), saying:

This is a crucial moment in Ukraine's resistance to a terrible war of aggression they did not choose or provoke. They need the sustained support of the international community to defend against the barrage of unrelenting and indiscriminate attacks that have been their daily reality for over a year. We must not let them down.

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17 May 2023	<p><a href="#"><u>Li Hui, China's special representative for Eurasian affairs and former ambassador to Russia, arrives in Ukraine on a two-day visit</u></a> and meets President Zelenskyy, Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba and other Ukrainian officials.</p> <p>Dmytro Kuleba tells Li Hui that <a href="#"><u>Kyiv will not accept any proposals to end the war with Russia that involve it losing territory or freezing the conflict.</u></a></p>
18 May 2023	<p>Following a meeting between President Zelenskyy and Li Hui, <a href="#"><u>China's Foreign Ministry says the two countries agreed to their mutually beneficial cooperation moving forward.</u></a> The statement adds:</p> <p>China has always played a constructive role in alleviating the humanitarian situation in Ukraine in its own way and will continue to provide assistance to Ukraine within its capacity.</p>
19 May 2023	<p>On his first trip to Saudi Arabia, <a href="#"><u>President Zelenskyy meets Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman and attends the Arab League Summit</u></a> in Jeddah.</p> <p>Addressing the Arab League leaders, <a href="#"><u>Zelenskyy comments "some" Arab countries were "turning a blind eye" to Russia's invasion</u></a> of his country, but thanks Mohammed bin Salman for his "support for the territorial integrity" of Ukraine.</p> <p>Saudi Arabia's Foreign Minister, Faisal bin Farhan, responds to Zelenskyy's comments and says <a href="#"><u>Arab countries have taken a position of "positive neutrality" regarding the crisis in Ukraine.</u></a></p>
20 May 2023	<p>President Zelenskyy visits Japan, to attend the G7 summit in Hiroshima and <a href="#"><u>discuss greater military support from the US and other G7 countries.</u></a></p>

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In its [final communique \(PDF\) from the summit](#), the G7 condemns Russia’s “brutal” war on Ukraine “in the strongest possible terms”, calling it a “serious violation of international law”. The section on Ukraine reads:

We once again condemn in the strongest possible terms the war of aggression by Russia against Ukraine, which constitutes a serious violation of international law, including the UN Charter.

Russia’s brutal war of aggression represents a threat to the whole world in breach of fundamental norms, rules and principles of the international community. We reaffirm our unwavering support for Ukraine for as long as it takes to bring a comprehensive, just and lasting peace.

We issued the G7 leaders’ statement on Ukraine, and with the clear intention and concrete actions set forth in it, we commit to intensifying our diplomatic, financial, humanitarian and military support for Ukraine, to increasing the costs to Russia and those supporting its war efforts, and to continuing to counter the negative impacts of the war on the rest of the world, particularly on the most vulnerable people.

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24 May 2023 Rishi Sunak tells a defence conference in London that [Ukraine’s Western allies are prepared to support the country in the war “for years”](#).

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25 May 2023 Alexander Lukashenko, the Belarusian president, confirms that [the relocation of some tactical nuclear weapons from Russia to Belarus has started](#). This is the Kremlin’s first deployment of such bombs outside of Russia since the 1991 fall of the Soviet Union.

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## 6

# June – August 2023

## Key events

**16-17 June 2023:** Leaders from seven African nations visit Ukraine and Russia on a self-styled “peace mission”.

**21-22 June 2023:** The Ukraine Recovery Conference takes place in London, co-hosted by the UK and Ukraine.

**22 June 2023:** Senior EU officials say Ukraine has completed two of the seven steps outlined by the bloc for Kyiv to be granted the status of a candidate for EU membership.

**11-12 July 2023:** The NATO Summit takes place in Vilnius, Lithuania, with support for Ukraine and its future membership of the alliance among the key issues on the agenda.

**20 July 2023:** Russia imposes restrictions on British diplomats within the country, requiring them to give five days’ notice of any plans to travel beyond a 120km (75-mile) radius.

**21 July 2023:** President Zelenskyy dismisses Ukraine’s ambassador to London, Vadym Prystaiko.

**31 August 2023:** UK Defence Secretary Ben Wallace resigns after four years in the post. Grant Shapps is subsequently appointed to the position.

1 June 2023

At a summit in Moldova, [Zelenskyy says he has received “powerful support” from allies](#) and that F-16 fighter jets could be made available to Ukraine within six months.

Zelenskyy also urges the international community to put concrete “security guarantees” in place in Ukraine and Moldova, to give the countries lasting protection against Russia.

2 June 2023	On the fringes of the Shangri-La dialogue security meeting in Singapore, UK Defence Secretary <a href="#">Ben Wallace says the path is open to Ukraine joining NATO</a> , although political realities may slow the process as it would not be possible to add members in the middle of a war.
7 June 2023	Former NATO Secretary-General, Anders Fogh Rasmussen, says <a href="#">a group of NATO countries may be willing to put troops on the ground in Ukraine</a> if member states do not provide tangible security guarantees to Kyiv at the alliance's upcoming summit in Vilnius.
9 June 2023	In talks at the White House, US President Joe Biden and UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak reiterate their <a href="#">commitment to helping Ukraine repel Russia's ongoing invasion</a> .
10 June 2023	<a href="#">Canada's Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau, visits Kyiv and announces \$500 million in new military aid for Ukraine</a> . While in Kyiv, Trudeau holds talks with President Zelenskyy and addresses Ukraine's parliament.
16 June 2023	<a href="#">Seven African leaders visit Ukraine</a> as part of a self-styled “peace mission” to both Ukraine and Russia. Ukraine’s President Zelenskyy asks the African leaders (the Presidents of Comoros, Senegal, South Africa and Zambia, plus Egypt’s Prime Minister and top envoys from the Republic of Congo and Uganda) to urge the Russian President to free political prisoners from Crimea.
17 June 2023	The <a href="#">African “peace mission” delegation visits President Putin in St Petersburg</a> , but the meeting ends with no visible progress being made. After the three-hour meeting, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov comments: “The peace initiative proposed by African countries is very difficult to implement, difficult to compare positions.”
21-22 June 2023	The <a href="#">Ukraine Recovery Conference takes place in London</a> , co-hosted by the UK and Ukraine. The conference focuses on “mobilising international support for Ukraine’s economic and social

stabilisation and recovery from the effects of war, including through emergency assistance for immediate needs and financing private sector participation in the reconstruction process”.

22 June 2023	<p>Senior EU officials say <a href="#">Ukraine has completed two of the seven steps outlined by the bloc for Kyiv to be granted the status of a candidate for EU membership</a>.</p> <p>The assessment, by the European Commission, offers Ukraine hope that it could achieve its aim of getting the green light for membership talks in December 2023.</p> <p>Olivér Várhelyi, the European Commissioner for relations with the EU’s neighbours, notes: “They [Ukraine] are on track, they are working hard. After all, the country is under attack.”</p>
24 June 2023	<p>President Putin says in an emergency televised address that <a href="#">an “armed mutiny” by the Wagner Group mercenary force was treason</a>, and that anyone who had taken up arms against the Russian military would be punished.</p> <p>Putin says he will do everything to protect Russia and that “resolute action” will be taken to stabilise the situation in Rostov-on-Don, a southern city where Wagner chief Yevgeny Prigozhin said his forces had taken control of all military installations.</p>
29 June 2023	<p>Russia’s ambassador to Switzerland, Sergei Garmonin, says <a href="#">Moscow could not accept any Swiss-hosted peace summit on Ukraine</a> after it joined EU sanctions against his country, adding that Switzerland had lost its reputation for neutrality.</p>
3 July 2023	<p>The <a href="#">International Centre for the Prosecution of the Crime of Aggression (ICPA) begins its work in The Hague</a>, in the first step towards a possible tribunal for Russia’s leadership.</p> <p>The ICPA provides a structure to support and enhance ongoing and future investigations into the crime of aggression and contribute to the exchange and analysis of evidence gathered since the start of the Russian aggression.</p>

4 July 2023	<p><a href="#">NATO confirms its Secretary-General, Jens Stoltenberg, will remain in post for an additional year</a> and will not step down until October 2024.</p>
6 July 2023	<p>President Zelenskyy visits Sofia, Bulgaria, in the first stop of a tour of European allies.</p> <p>After talks with Bulgarian Prime Minister Nikolai Denkov, <a href="#">Zelenskyy says he has invited the country to participate in the reconstruction effort in Ukraine</a> and urges Bulgaria to maintain its military support.</p> <p><a href="#">Zelenskyy later visits the Czech capital, Prague</a>, and is welcomed by his Czech counterpart, Petr Pavel. At a joint press conference, Zelenskyy says Ukraine would like a “clear signal” “in the direction of an invitation” to join NATO during the upcoming summit in Lithuania.</p>
7 July 2023	<p><a href="#">President Zelenskyy visits Slovakia</a> and holds talks with Slovakia’s President Zuzana Čaputová, Prime Minister Ľudovít Ődor and Speaker of the National Council, Boris Kollar.</p> <p><a href="#">Zelenskyy later visits Turkey</a> for talks with President Recep Tayyip Erdo��n. Following their talks, President Erdo��n says: “Without a doubt, Ukraine deserves to be in NATO.”</p>
9 July 2023	<p>In an interview with CNN, US President <a href="#">Joe Biden says Ukraine is “not yet ready” to become a member of NATO</a>, adding: “NATO is a process that takes some time to meet all the qualifications - from democratisation to a whole range of other issues.”</p>
11 July 2023	<p><a href="#">NATO’s 2023 summit in Vilnius</a>, Lithuania, opens, with support for Ukraine and its future membership of the organisation among the key issues on the summit’s agenda.</p>
12 July 2023	<p>The <a href="#">NATO Secretary-General outlines a three-part, multi-year package</a> that will bring “Ukraine closer to NATO”.</p> <p>The plan establishes “a new NATO-Ukraine Council that will hold its inaugural meeting later that day.</p> <p>On Twitter, <a href="#">President Zelenskyy welcomes the institutional certainty that the Council provides</a>, but</p>

adds that the majority of Ukraine's citizens expect specifics about the conditions Ukraine must meet in order to join NATO.

The [leaders of the G7 sign a joint declaration outlining the long-term security and economic support they plan to provide to Ukraine](#), as well as support to facilitate a “reform agenda” that will provide Ukraine with “the good governance necessary to advance towards its Euro-Atlantic aspirations”.

13 July 2023	The US Secretary of Defence, <a href="#">Lloyd Austin, tells CNN he has “no doubt” that Ukraine will become part of NATO</a> after Russia’s war against the country ends.
15 July 2023	<a href="#">South Korea’s President Yoon Suk-yeol visits President Zelenskyy</a> in Kyiv and pledges to increase his country’s humanitarian and non-lethal military assistance to Ukraine.  Yoon adds that humanitarian aid will be increased to \$150m in 2023, up from \$100m in 2022.
17 July 2023	<a href="#">Sweden’s government pledges 6bn krona (£450m) in aid to rebuild Ukraine</a> and facilitate reforms to pave the way for EU membership. This is Sweden’s largest-ever bilateral development package.
19 July 2023	South Africa’s President Cyril Ramaphosa confirms <a href="#">President Vladimir Putin will not be attending the upcoming BRICS Summit in Johannesburg</a> .  Instead, Russia will be represented by Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov by mutual agreement, following South African concerns about an ICC arrest warrant for Putin.
20 July 2023	<a href="#">Russia imposes restrictions on British diplomats within the country</a> , requiring them to give five days’ notice of any plans to travel beyond a 120km (75-mile) radius, due to what it called London’s “hostile actions”.
21 July 2023	<a href="#">President Zelenskyy dismisses Ukraine’s ambassador to London</a> , Vadym Prystaiko.  At the Aspen Security Forum, the head of France’s diplomatic team, Emmanuel Bonne, says <a href="#">China is</a>

delivering items that could be used as military equipment to Russia, albeit not on a massive scale.

25 July 2023	President Zelenskyy says <u>Ukraine is “not slowing down the pace” of its ambitions to join NATO</u> .
26 July 2023	<u>Russia’s parliament votes to raise the maximum age at which men can be conscripted to 30 from 27</u> , increasing the number of young men liable for a year of compulsory military service.
27 July 2023	<u>Moldova orders 45 Russian diplomats and embassy staff to leave the country</u> , sharply reducing the number of officials Russia can have in its capital Chișinău.  At a meeting of the Cabinet, Moldova’s Foreign Minister, Nicu Popescu, says:  We agreed on the need to limit the number of accredited diplomats from Russia, so that there are fewer people trying to destabilize the Republic of Moldova.  For many years we have been the object of hostile Russian actions and policies. Many of them were made through the embassy.
28 July 2023	Qatar’s Prime Minister, Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman al-Thani, who also serves as Foreign Minister, visits Ukraine. Whilst there, he announces <u>Qatar will provide Ukraine with \$100m in humanitarian aid</u> to support health, education and demining.
14 August 2023	<u>Twenty-two Russian diplomats leave Moldova</u> , as relations between the two countries deteriorate. Moldovan officials say the reduction of staff at the Russian embassy, from 80 to 25 personnel, will establish parity with Moldova’s embassy in Moscow.  In response, <u>Russia’s Foreign Ministry issues a statement</u> saying: “This unfriendly step of official Chisinau will undoubtedly have consequences for Russian-Moldovan relations.”
17 August 2023	<u>President Lukashenko dismisses suggestions that President Putin is trying to push Belarus into joining the war in Ukraine</u> , saying:

To involve Belarus ... what will that give? Nothing.

If you Ukrainians do not cross our border, we will never participate in this war. In this hot war. But we will always help Russia - they are our allies.

18 August 2023	<p>The <a href="#">US approves Denmark and the Netherlands sending F-16 fighter jets to Ukraine</a> as soon as pilot training is completed.</p> <p>Oleksii Reznikov, Ukraine's Minister of Defence announces <a href="#">Sweden has approved a €270m security assistance package for Ukraine</a>.</p>
20 August 2023	<p><a href="#">President Zelenskyy visits both Denmark and the Netherlands</a> and receives assurances that F-16 fighter jets will be delivered to Ukraine around New Year.</p>
21 August 2023	<p><a href="#">Russia condemns the decision by Denmark and the Netherlands to donate F-16 fighter jets to Ukraine</a>, saying the move would escalate the war. In a statement cited by the Ritzau news agency, Vladimir Barbin, the Russian ambassador to Denmark, says:</p> <p>The fact that Denmark has now decided to donate 19 F-16 aircraft to Ukraine leads to an escalation of the conflict.</p> <p>By hiding behind a premise that Ukraine itself must determine the conditions for peace, Denmark seeks with its actions and words to leave Ukraine with no other choice but to continue the military confrontation with Russia.</p> <p><a href="#">President Zelenskyy addresses the Danish parliament in Copenhagen</a>, thanking Danish politicians for helping his country resist Russia's invasion with the promise of F-16 fighter jets.</p> <p>In his address, Zelenskyy warns other parts of Europe would be at risk from Russia's military aggression if it succeeded in the war in Ukraine.</p> <p>Later, <a href="#">Zelenskyy travels to Athens to hold talks with Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis</a>.</p>
23 August 2023	<p>The leader of the Wagner mercenary group, <a href="#">Yevgeny Prigozhin, is reportedly killed in a plane crash</a> over Russia.</p>

28 August 2023 In a phone call, President Putin tells India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi that Russia will be represented by its foreign minister at the upcoming G20 summit in New Delhi.

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31 August 2023 UK Defence Secretary Ben Wallace resigns after four years in the post. Grant Shapps is subsequently appointed to the position.

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## September – November 2023

### Key events

**6 September 2023:** Rustem Umerov is appointed Ukraine's defence minister, replacing Oleksii Reznikov.

**12 September 2023:** Kim Jong-un and Vladimir Putin hold a summit in Russia to discuss a possible deal to supply North Korean arms for the war in Ukraine.

**15 September 2023:** In talks with President Putin, Alexander Lukashenko suggests Belarus could revive an old alliance with Russia and North Korea.

**20 September 2023:** President Zelenskyy addresses the UN General Assembly in person for the first time since Russia began its invasion of his country in February 2022.

4 September 2023

Ukraine's defence minister, Oleksii Reznikov, submits his resignation letter to the chairman of parliament, a day after President Zelenskyy announced he would be replacing his defence minister.

#### Reznikov tweets:

I have submitted my letter of resignation to Ruslan Stefanchuk, Chairman of the Parliament of Ukraine.

It was an honor to serve the Ukrainian people and work for the #UAarmy for the last 22 months, the toughest period of Ukraine's modern history.

[Turkey's President Erdoan arrives in Russia's Black Sea resort of Sochi for talks with President Putin](#) to discuss current regional and global issues, as well as bilateral ties. There was no agreement on the Black Sea grain deal.

6 September 2023

[Ukraine's parliament votes to approve the appointment of Rустем Умеров as the country's new defence minister.](#)

Umerov is a leading member of the Crimean Tatar community who has represented Ukraine in sensitive negotiations with Russia.

9 September 2023

On the opening day of the G20 summit in Delhi, [India's prime minister Narendra Modi announces the bloc has adopted a consensus declaration on issues including the war in Ukraine.](#)

The [final statement highlights the “human suffering and the adverse impact of wars and conflicts around the world,”](#) (PDF) including Ukraine, but does not mention Russia's invasion.

Oleg Nikolenko, a spokesperson for [Ukraine's foreign ministry, says the G20's joint declaration is “nothing to be proud of”](#) and criticised it for not mentioning Russia.

12 September 2023

North Korean leader [Kim Jong-un arrives in Russia for a rare summit with President Putin](#) to discuss a possible deal to supply North Korean arms for the war in Ukraine.

Kim's trip to Russia and meeting with Putin will be a full-scale visit to strengthen ties, Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov says in a video posted online.

[G7 foreign ministers condemn the staging of what they call “sham elections” by Russia in occupied Ukrainian territories.](#) The G7 statement, published by the UK's Foreign Office, reads:

We ... unequivocally condemn the staging of sham ‘elections’ held by Russia on sovereign Ukrainian territory in Donetsk, Kherson, Luhansk, Zaporizhzhia oblasts and Crimea.

These sham ‘elections’ are a further violation of the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine and of the UN Charter.

Russia has no legitimate basis for any such actions on the territory of Ukraine. The sham ‘elections’ are a propaganda exercise aimed at legitimising Russia's illegal seizure of Ukrainian territory.

13 September 2023	In her annual address to the European Parliament, European Commission President, <a href="#">Ursula von der Leyen, says Ukraine has made “great strides” to join the EU</a> since being granted candidate status in 2022 and offers the bloc’s enduring support.  Speaking at Russia’s Vostochny cosmodrome, <a href="#">Kim Jong-un pledges to support all of Russia’s decisions</a> , telling President Putin:  Russia has risen to a sacred fight to protect its sovereignty and security against the hegemonic forces.  We will always support the decisions of President Putin and the Russian leadership... and we will be together in the fight against imperialism.
15 September 2023	President Putin hosts a meeting with his Belarusian ally and counterpart, Alexander Lukashenko, who suggests <a href="#">Minsk could join Moscow’s efforts to revive an old alliance with North Korea</a> following this week’s summit with Kim Jong-un.
18 September 2023	The <a href="#">Ukrainian government dismisses six deputy defence ministers</a> following the appointment of a new defence minister earlier this month. Those removed from their post include Hanna Maliar, who has frequently issued public updates on Russia’s war against Ukraine.  <a href="#">Russia’s foreign ministry says it has summoned French ambassador Pierre Levy to protest over what it called the “discriminatory and openly Russophobic” actions of French authorities against Russian journalists at the recent G20 summit in New Delhi.</a>
20 September 2023	<a href="#">President Zelenskyy addresses the United Nations General Assembly</a> in person for the first time since Russia began its invasion of his country in February 2022. In his speech, Zelenskyy urges UN Member States to come together to oppose Russian aggression and to recognise Ukraine’s territorial integrity.
21 September 2023	<a href="#">President Zelenskyy undertakes his second visit to Washington during the Russian invasion of Ukraine.</a>

During his visit, Zelenskyy meets US President Joe Biden and has a further meeting with leaders of the Republican-led House of Representatives and House national security committees, before a private session with the full US Senate.

22 September 2023	Following his visit to the US, <a href="#">President Zelenskyy travels to Canada to meet Prime Minister Justin Trudeau</a> and addresses the Canadian parliament in Ottawa.
23 September 2023	President Zelenskyy announces he has held an impromptu meeting with the head of the Sudanese sovereign council, Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, where they discussed Russia-funded armed groups. The impromptu meeting took place in Shannon airport and <a href="#">Zelenskyy thanked Sudan for its support of Ukraine's territorial integrity</a> .
25 September 2023	<a href="#">Hungary's Prime Minister, Viktor Orbán, says his country is not in a hurry to ratify Sweden's NATO accession</a> , signalling a further delay in a process that has been stranded in the Hungarian parliament since July 2022.
28 September 2023	<a href="#">UK Defence Secretary Grant Shapps visits President Zelenskyy in Kyiv</a> and promises further military support from the UK. The visit is Shapps's first to Ukraine since becoming defence secretary last month.  NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg also visits Kyiv, with <a href="#">Zelenskyy describing NATO as a “defacto” ally</a> and saying it is “only a matter of time before Ukraine becomes a de jure one as well”.
2 October 2023	At a surprise meeting of EU foreign ministers in Kyiv, <a href="#">Ukraine is told it is “absolutely possible” that EU membership talks could begin this year</a> .
10 October 2023	<a href="#">Russia is defeated in its attempt to regain a seat in the UN’s top human rights body</a> , which voted last year to suspend Moscow after its invasion of Ukraine.  In a secret ballot at the General Assembly, Russia won 83 votes, while Albania received 123 and Bulgaria got 160.

12 October 2023

[The International Olympic Committee suspends the Russian Olympic Committee](#) (ROC) for recognising regional organisations from four territories annexed from Ukraine.

[The ROC denounces the decision](#), saying:

The IOC has taken yet another counterproductive, politically motivated decision. Russian athletes, the majority of which are still groundlessly banned from international performances, are not affected in any way by this step.

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13 October 2023

The White House says [North Korea has provided Russia with a shipment of weapons](#), calling it a troubling development and raising concerns about the expanded military relationship between the two countries.

Later reports highlight [ongoing arms transfer activity at Najiin Port](#).

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17 October 2023

China's president, [Xi Jinping, welcomes his “dear friend” Vladimir Putin to Beijing](#), where representatives of 130 countries are attending a forum on Xi's vast trade and infrastructure project, the belt and road initiative.

This is Putin's second known trip abroad since the International Criminal Court (ICC) issued a warrant for his arrest in March.

In a unanimous vote, the State Duma, [the lower house of the Russian parliament, gives preliminary approval to a bill revoking the ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty](#) (CTBT).

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18 October 2023

The lower house of the Russian parliament, [the State Duma, passes the second and third readings of a bill revoking Russia's ratification of the comprehensive nuclear test ban treaty](#) (CTBT). Both stages are passed unanimously by 415 votes to zero.

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28 October 2023

A [third round of Ukrainian-backed peace talks opens in Malta](#), with representatives from more than 50 countries, to discuss Zelenskyy's 10-point formula for peace with Russia.

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4 November 2023	During a visit to Kyiv, European Commission President <a href="#">Ursula von der Leyen says Ukraine has made “excellent progress” towards EU accession.</a>
7 November 2023	<a href="#">Russia withdraws from the conventional armed forces in Europe (CFE) treaty</a> , a security treaty that limited key categories of conventional armed forces. Russia’s foreign ministry says Moscow had formally withdrawn from the pact at midnight and that the treaty was now “history”.
8 November 2023	At a G7 meeting in Japan, the bloc’s <a href="#">foreign ministers insist that their support for Ukraine “will never waver”</a> , despite growing tensions in the Middle East. <a href="#">Slovakia’s new government rejects a previously drafted plan to donate rockets and ammunition to Ukraine</a> , following through on a pledge by incoming Prime Minister Robert Fico to halt military aid to Kyiv.
13 November 2023	Former UK Prime Minister <a href="#">David Cameron is appointed Foreign Secretary</a> . The government confirms he will enter the House of Lords in order to serve as a minister.
16 November 2023	In his first overseas visit as foreign secretary, <a href="#">David Cameron, meets President Zelenskyy in Kyiv</a> , pledging continued military support and a refocus on Ukraine as conflict continues in the Middle East.
17 November 2023	<a href="#">David Cameron visits Moldova</a> and discusses security in the Black Sea and bilateral cooperation with Moldovan President Maia Sandu.
21 November 2023	The UN Human Right Office reports that <a href="#">more than 10,000 civilians have been killed in Ukraine since Russia’s invasion in February 2022</a> .
28 November 2023	<a href="#">NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg urges members of the alliance to continue supporting Ukraine</a> in its conflict against Russia, amid opposition in the US to a military aid package and some resistance in Europe for a longer-term support plan for Kyiv.

## December 2023 – February 2024

### Key events

**7 December 2023:** Russia's Federation Council announces the 2024 presidential election will take place on 17 March. It is later announced that voting will also take place in the four regions of Ukraine annexed by Russia in 2022.

**12 January 2024:** Rishi Sunak visits Kyiv to sign a new security agreement and announce further military funding.

**1 February 2024:** EU leaders unanimously approve a €50 billion plan to support Ukraine for the next four years.

**24 February 2024:** On the second anniversary of Russia's invasion, several western leaders visit Ukraine to show solidarity.

7 December 2023

Russia's upper house of parliament, the [Federation Council, votes to set the date of the 2024 presidential election as 17 March](#), moving Vladimir Putin closer to a fifth term in office and the opportunity to remain in power until at least 2030.

11 December 2023

[Russia's Central Elections Commission says it plans to allow voting for the 2024 presidential election to go ahead in the four regions of Ukraine that it annexed in 2022](#). In response, Ukraine says any Russian vote in Donetsk, Luhansk, Kherson and Zaporizhzhia will be null and void and that it will prosecute any observers sent to monitor voting.

12 December 2023

[President Zelenskyy visits the US](#) for talks with President Biden and, separately, members of Congress in Washington DC.

14 December 2023

In a televised end-of-year press conference, President [Putin says “there will only be peace in](#)

Ukraine when we achieve our aims”, and calls for the “denazification of Ukraine, its demilitarisation”.

1 January 2024	In his New Year address, President <u>Zelenskyy vows to unleash “wrath” against Russian forces in 2024</u> , saying Ukraine has become stronger as the war moves toward its second year.
5 January 2024	In a briefing, John Kirby, the US’s national security council spokesperson, says <u>North Korea is providing Russia with ballistic missile launchers and ballistic missiles</u> . The US intelligence assessment is that Iranian missiles have not yet arrived in Russia, but that the deal will eventually be done.  Posting on X (formerly Twitter), the UK Defence Secretary, <u>Grant Shapps</u> , says “ <u>we’ll make sure North Korea pays a high price for supporting Russia.</u> ”
11 January 2024	<u>Ukraine’s parliament refuses to debate a bill aimed at drafting more soldiers</u> , amid fierce criticism from lawmakers and the public.  Ukrainian MPs criticised certain measures included in the bill as unconstitutional. Some clauses caused particular outrage, such as limiting draft dodgers from their right to own property and to freely use their personal money.
12 January 2024	<u>Prime Minister Sunak visits Kyiv to sign a new security agreement</u> and announce an increase in military funding for Ukraine.
24 January 2024	Writing in an article for Politico, <u>Grant Shapps says the UK’s allies must increase their Ukraine military aid</u> : “Kyiv needs more support — and not just from the United Kingdom. Our fellow allies must step up too.”
1 February 2024	<u>European Union leaders unanimously approve a €50 billion plan to support Ukraine for the next four years</u> .  The deal, known as the “ <u>Ukraine Facility</u> ”, consists of €17 billion in grants and €33 billion in loans, designed to help Ukraine rebuild and recover from the war.

8 February 2024 In a two-hour interview with former Fox News host Tucker Carlson, President [Putin says the US “needs to stop supplying weapons” to Ukraine](#). The interview is Putin's first with a western media outlet since Russia invaded Ukraine in February 2022.

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16 February 2024 [President Zelenskyy visits Germany and France, signing security pacts with both countries](#), committing further support to Ukraine from each.

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24 February 2024 [Four western leaders, including the prime ministers of Italy, Canada, and Belgium, visit Kyiv](#) to show solidarity with Ukraine on the second anniversary of Russia's invasion. Italy's Giorgia Meloni, Canada's Justin Trudeau, Belgium's Alexander De Croo and the president of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, travelled to the Ukrainian capital together on an overnight train from neighbouring Poland.

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26 February 2024 [Hungary's parliament approves a bill to allow Sweden to join NATO](#), clearing the way for the Nordic country to join the alliance after months of delay.

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27 February 2024 [Several European countries say they are not considering sending ground troops to Ukraine](#) after France's president, Emmanuel Macron, said he refused to rule out sending soldiers to the country. The UK, Germany, Sweden, the Czech Republic, Poland, Italy and Hungary all rule out the move, as does the NATO Secretary-General.

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## March – May

### Key events

**15-17 March 2024:** The presidential election in Russia takes place. Putin wins the election, securing a fifth term in office.

**25 April 2024:** The UK's Chancellor of the Exchequer meets President Zelenskyy in Kyiv to discuss sanctions against Russia.

**16-17 May 2024:** President Putin carries out a two-day state visit to China. Following talks with Xi Jinping, the two leaders pledge a “new era” of partnership.

7 March 2024

[Sweden becomes NATO's 32nd member state](#), upon depositing its instrument of accession to the North Atlantic Treaty with the US government in Washington DC.

8 March 2024

[Andriy Yermak, the head of Volodymyr Zelenskyy's office, meets with a delegation headed by Li Hui](#), the Chinese government's special representative for Eurasian affairs. They discuss China-Ukraine relations and the war in Ukraine.

11 March 2024

The chairs of [foreign affairs committees in 23 parliaments issue a joint statement](#) rejecting the legitimacy of elections conducted by Russia in the Ukrainian territories it has annexed.

15 March 2024

[Three days of voting begins in Russia](#) and in the annexed regions of Ukraine. [There is no serious challenge to President Putin](#) securing another term in office.

17 March 2024

In the Russian presidential election, [Putin wins 87% of the vote](#), securing a fifth term in office. The result means Putin will overtake Joseph Stalin to become

Russia's longest-serving leader in more than 200 years.

18 March 2024	At an open-air <a href="#">concert in Moscow's Red Square, to mark the 10th anniversary of Russia's annexation of Crimea</a> from Ukraine, <a href="#">Putin says Crimea had "returned to its home harbour"</a> and would move forwards with Russia "hand in hand".
20 March 2024	A <a href="#">report issued by the UN Human Rights Office</a> (PDF) accuses Russia of torturing and arbitrarily detaining people in occupied Ukraine, creating a "climate of fear".  In a <a href="#">press release</a> accompanying the report, the UN says Russia has imposed its "language, citizenship, laws, court system, and education curricula on the occupied areas".
21 March 2024	Ukraine's president, Volodymyr <a href="#">Zelenskyy, addresses the European Council summit via videoconference</a> and calls for more help with air defences and ammunition, as well for progress on Ukraine's path towards European integration.
2 April 2024	The <a href="#">Register of Damages for Ukraine opens in The Hague</a> , as part of a Ministerial Conference on "Restoring Justice for Ukraine". The conference brings together the Council of Europe, heads of international organisations, and ministers and senior officials from more than 60 states.
9 April 2024	UK foreign secretary <a href="#">David Cameron visits former US president Donald Trump</a> at his Mar-a-Lago residence, to discuss a new aid package for Ukraine that is being held up in Congress.
15 April 2024	<a href="#">President Macron of France calls for a truce in international conflicts during the Paris Olympics</a> . Referencing the Israel-Hamas conflict, the war in Ukraine and the ongoing conflict in Sudan, Macron says: "We will work on an Olympic truce. It is something on which I will actually try to engage many of our partners."
16 April 2024	<a href="#">Russia reacts coolly to the suggestion of an Olympics truce</a> , with Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov saying both President Putin and the Russian military

had “noticed that, as a rule, the Kyiv regime uses such ideas, such initiatives to try to regroup, to try to rearm, and so on and so forth”.

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24 April 2024	At a <a href="#">press conference in Berlin</a> , UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak and German Chancellor Olaf Scholz agree to closer defence cooperation between the two allies, with both leaders saying <a href="#">Europe must unite to support Ukraine against Russia “for as long as it takes”</a> .
25 April 2024	The UK’s Chancellor of the Exchequer, <a href="#">Jeremy Hunt, meets President Zelenskyy</a> in Kyiv and discuss sanctions against Russia.
7 May 2024	Addressing dignitaries after being sworn in for a new six-year term, <a href="#">President Putin says he has not rejected dialogue with the West</a> , saying:  The choice is theirs: do they intend to continue trying to restrain the development of Russia, continue the policy of aggression, incessant pressure on our country for years, or look for a path to cooperation and peace?
8 May 2024	In a <a href="#">statement to the House of Commons</a> , Home Secretary James Cleverley announces an “undeclared” Russian military intelligence officer will be expelled from the UK. The Home Secretary also announces the closure of several Russian diplomatic premises and new restrictions on diplomatic visas.  The <a href="#">Russian Embassy in London says the restrictions have been imposed under a “groundless and ridiculous pretext”</a> .
16 May 2024	President Putin arrives in Beijing for a two-day state visit to China. Following talks with Xi Jinping, <a href="#">the two leaders pledge a “new era” of partnership</a> .  Putin and Xi agree to deepen their “strategic partnership” and issue a joint statement on <a href="#">“the deepening of the comprehensive partnership and strategic cooperation entering a new era.”</a>

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## June 2024 - present

### Key events

**11-12 June 2024:** The Ukraine Recovery Conference takes place in Germany.

**13 June 2024:** The US signs a bilateral security commitment with Ukraine.

**15-16 June 2024:** The Ukraine Peace Summit takes place in Switzerland.

**25 June 2024:** The European Union formally launches accession talks with Ukraine.

**27 June 2024:** The European Union signs a security agreement with Ukraine.

**5 July 2024:** On his first day as Prime Minister, Sir Keir Starmer speaks to President Zelenskyy and reiterates the UK's unwavering commitment to Ukraine.

**9-11 July 2024:** The NATO Summit takes place in Washington DC, with the alliance making several further pledges of support to Ukraine.

6 June 2024

President Zelenskyy joins other world leaders at the commemorations marking the 80th anniversary of the D-Day landings in Normandy, France.

During his speech, US President [Joe Biden says the US will “not walk away” from the Ukraine conflict](#), and that “if we do Ukraine will be subjugated, and it will not end there. Ukraine’s neighbours will be threatened, all of Europe will be threatened.”

11-12 June 2024

[President Zelenskyy visits Germany to take part in the two-day Ukraine Recovery Conference](#) and meets with German Chancellor Olaf Scholz.

Addressing the conference, Ursula von der Leyen, president of the European Commission, says

accession talks with Ukraine to join the EU will start by the end of the month, with Ukraine having fulfilled all the requirements to join the bloc.

Zelenskyy later addresses the German Bundestag in person for the first time (he spoke to the parliament in March 2022, but was connected via video link only.)

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13 June 2024	The <u>US signs a bilateral security agreement with Ukraine</u> .
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15-16 June 2024	<u>Around 100 countries participate in a two-day Ukraine Peace Summit</u> in Bürgenstock, Switzerland. Russia is not invited to the conference and China doesn't send a representative.
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83 countries and organisations support the joint communique issued at the end of the summit.

India, Indonesia, Mexico, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Thailand and the United Arab Emirates take part in the summit, but do not sign the final communique. Brazil attends with “observer status” and also does not endorse the communique.

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18 June 2024	<u>President Putin is greeted by North Korea's leader, Kim Jong-Un</u> , upon landing in Pyongyang on his first visit to the country since 2000.
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19 June 2024	On the second day of Putin's state visit to North Korea, he signs a deal Kim Jong-Un that includes a <u>mutual defence pledge, which Kim says amounts to an “alliance”</u>
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25 June 2024	The <u>European Union formally launches accession talks with Ukraine</u> and Moldova, at an Accession Conference in Luxembourg.
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The International Criminal Court issues arrest warrants for Sergei Shoigu, the former Russian defence minister, and Russian general Valery Gerasimov, for alleged crimes committed during Russia's invasion of Ukraine. This brings to six the number of arrest warrants issued against senior Russians since Moscow sent troops into Ukraine in February 2022.

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27 June 2024	The European Union signs a security agreement with Ukraine.
4 July 2024	The Labour Party wins the UK General Election, with Sir Keir Starmer becoming the new Prime Minister. Sir Keir appoints David Lammy as foreign secretary and John Healey as defence secretary.
5 July 2024	On his first day in office, Sir Keir Starmer speaks to President Zelenskyy on the telephone and reiterates the UK's unwavering commitment to Ukraine.
7 July 2024	John Healey, the UK's new defence secretary, meets President Zelenskyy and Ukrainian defence minister Rustem Umerov in Odesa. Healey pledges to step up the UK's assistance to Ukraine and announces a new package of support.
8 July 2024	During a visit to Warsaw, President Zelenskyy signs a bilateral security agreement between Poland and Ukraine, aimed at strengthening ties with one of Kyiv's closest allies. Poland's Prime Minister, Donald Tusk, says: "We treat every word in this agreement as mutual commitments — not empty promises."
8-9 July 2024	Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi undertakes an official visit to Russia, to reinforce the deepening partnership between the two countries. At the end of the visit, the two sides set out nine key areas for closer cooperation and aim to boost bilateral trade by more than half, to hit \$100 billion by 2030.
9-11 July 2024	The NATO Summit takes place in Washington DC. The centrepiece of the summit is new commitments of military and humanitarian aid to Ukraine, with US Secretary of State Antony Blinken saying the summit will "further strengthen" the war-torn country's path to NATO membership.
10 July 2024	Sir Keir Starmer meets President Zelenskyy at the NATO Summit in Washington DC. Addressing the summit, Sir Keir says "the alternative to Ukraine's victory is unthinkable" and vows to deliver £3 billion worth of support to Ukraine each year, for as long as needed.

11 July 2024

[Valeriy Zaluzhnyi, formerly head of Ukraine's armed forces, assumes his duties as Kyiv's ambassador to the UK.](#)

The NATO Summit closes, with its final communique, the [Washington Summit Declaration](#), making several pledges of support to Ukraine.

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13 July 2024

[Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko says tensions on his country's border with Ukraine have subsided](#) and extra troops that had been deployed there were to return to their bases.

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15 July 2024

Addressing a press conference in Kyiv, [President Zelenskyy says he is aiming to have a peace plan ready by November](#), and for Kyiv to host a second international summit to discuss his vision of peace. Zelenskyy also says representatives of Russia should attend the summit.

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