# general topic updates

## finland and sweden

### finland and sweden- joining nato

#### Turkey agreed to let Finland and Sweden join NATO

Stephen **Erlanger** and Michael D. **Shear** 6-28-20**22** "Latest NATO and Russia-Ukraine War News: Live Updates," https://archive.ph/aBpOd, accessed 7-3-2022//cpd

If Finland and Sweden join NATO, it would mark one of the most significant expansions of the alliance in decades at a time when Russia’s invasion of Ukraine has radically altered Europe’s security calculus. It also underscores how the war in Ukraine has undermined President Vladimir V. Putin’s aim of weakening NATO by pushing Sweden and Finland, which were neutral and nonaligned for decades, into the alliance’s arms.

“I’m pleased to announce that we now have an agreement that paves the way for Finland and Sweden to join NATO,” NATO’s secretary-general, Jens Stoltenberg, said Tuesday evening. “Turkey, Finland and Sweden have signed a memorandum that addresses Turkey’s concerns, including around arms exports, and the fight against terrorism.”

The meeting in Madrid included the President Recep Tayyip Erdogan of Turkey, Prime Minister Magdalena Andersson of Sweden and President Sauli Niinisto of Finland, and was chaired by Mr. Stoltenberg.

“As a result of that meeting, our foreign ministers signed a trilateral memorandum which confirms that Turkey will, at the Madrid summit this week, support the invitation of Finland and Sweden to become members of NATO,” Mr. Niinisto said. “The concrete steps of our accession to NATO will be agreed by the NATO allies during the next two days, but that decision is now imminent.”

#### Turkey signed an agreement to allow the Nordics to join NATO as countries vamp up penalties against Russia

Emily **Rauhala**, Amy, **06-28-22**, "Turkey drops opposition to Finland, Sweden joining NATO," Washington Post, https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2022/06/28/russia-ukraine-war-putin-news-live-updates/, accessed 7-3-2022//cpd

MADRID — Turkey has agreed to support Finland’s and Sweden’s membership in NATO, paving the way for the alliance to grow. The leaders of the three countries signed a memorandum Tuesday at a NATO summit in Madrid confirming Turkey’s support for the membership bids by Helsinki and Stockholm. Russia’s invasion of Ukraine pushed Finland and Sweden to seek to join the alliance.

Leaders from the Group of Seven wealthiest democracies ended their summit in Germany promising to “urgently” explore price caps on Russian oil and gas. They did not, however, impose new energy sanctions. In closing remarks, German Chancellor Olaf Scholz said Russian President Vladimir Putin “must not win the war.”

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky again urged the United States to name Moscow a state sponsor of terrorism — a designation that would trigger significant penalties — after a Russian missile strike on a shopping mall in the central city of Kremenchuk killed at least 18 people. In a Tuesday speech to the U.N. Security Council meeting, Zelensky said Russia should be stripped of its seat on the council and a tribunal should be established to investigate Moscow’s “daily terrorist acts.”

### finland and sweden- baltics

#### Finland and Sweden provide NATO with prime geography to reinforce against a Russian attack

David **Axe**, **6-28**-2022, "With Sweden And Finland Set To Join NATO, Europe’s Geography Just Got A Lot More Difficult For Russia," Forbes, https://www.forbes.com/sites/davidaxe/2022/06/28/with-sweden-and-finland-set-to-join-nato-europes-geography-just-got-a-lot-more-difficult-for-russia/?sh=4ee223821a41, accessed 7-3-2022//cpd

Turkey will lift its objection to Finland and Sweden joining NATO, setting the stage for the alliance’s biggest expansion in a generation.

The expansion will dramatically alter Europe’s strategic geography—in NATO’s favor.

The decision came at the beginning of a NATO summit Tuesday in Madrid. “We had a thorough meeting with President of Turkey Recep Tayyip Erdoğan and Prime Minister of Sweden Magdalena Andersson, facilitated by Secretary General of NATO Jens Stoltenberg,” announced Sauli Niinistö, the president of Finland.

The Finnish and Swedish governments stated their intentions to join the 30-country military alliance back in April, six weeks into Russia’s wider war on Ukraine. Both countries for decades maintained a Western-leaning non-alignment—coordinating and training with NATO but avoiding any treaty entanglements.

Russia’s brutal attack on Ukraine changed everything. Popular opinion in Sweden and Finland quickly shifted in favor of joining NATO. Article V of the alliance charter obligates member states to defend each other in the event of an attack.

Turkey stood in the way of Swedish and Finnish membership, at first. The NATO charter requires the unanimous consent of existing member states before any new state can join. Erdogan objected, unfairly accusing Sweden and Finland of supporting two Kurdish militant groups, the PKK and YPG.

In Madrid, Swedish and Finnish officials reaffirmed their commitment to counterterrorism. That, plus whatever arms deals get announced in coming days, clearly was enough for the Turks. “The concrete steps of our accession to NATO will be agreed by the NATO allies during the next two days, but that decision is now imminent,” Niinistö said.

In joining NATO, Finland adds its 24,000 active troops, 100 warplanes and scores of warships to the alliance, while Sweden adds its own 15,000 active troops plus similar numbers of planes and ships.

The additional manpower isn’t hugely significant in an alliance that already includes 3.5 million troops. The geographical changes arguably are more important. With Finland and Sweden in NATO, the alliance extends along all Finland’s 830-mile land border with Russia—and also nearly encircles the Baltic Sea.

The latter is key. NATO’s most vulnerable members—Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia—are sandwiched on the Baltic between Russia and Kaliningrad, Russia’s Baltic exclave. “NATO would almost certainly need basing rights in Finland and Sweden to defend the Baltic states,” the New York City-based Council on Foreign Relations explained prior to Tuesday’s membership announcement.

Admitting Finland and Sweden gives NATO myriad air bases, ports and lines of communication north of Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia, facilitating swift reinforcement of the three countries in the event of a Russian attack.

#### Finland and sweden’s admission fortifies russian deterrence in the baltics

Francesca **chambers** and michael **collins**, **6-29-**2022, "finland's, sweden's push to join nato 'a kick in the gut' for putin," archive.ph, https://archive.ph/gd2qm, accessed 7-3-2022//cpd

The breakthrough in the top-level diplomatic talks between Finland, Sweden and Turkey came shortly after President Joe Biden and other NATO leaders arrived in Spain for a three-day summit that will determine the course of the alliance for years.

**F**inland’s and Sweden’s entry into the alliance will vastly expand its reach.

Finland shares an 830-mile border with Russia, allowing NATO to fortify its eastern flank. Both countries also sit along the Baltic Sea, a vast body of water bordering nine countries, including Denmark and Germany to the west and Estonia and Russia on the east. Once Finland and Sweden formally enter NATO, the Baltic Sea will be essentially controlled by the military alliance.

“Finland and Sweden joining NATO turns the Baltic Sea into a NATO lake, where the Russian navy will be operating on NATO terms,” said Rose Gottemoeller, NATO’s former deputy secretary general. "It will be surrounded by NATO countries on every side.”

NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg announced Monday that NATO allies will agree at the summit to increase the strength of the alliance’s rapid reaction force nearly eightfold, from 40,000 to 300,000 troops. The troops will be based in their home nations, but dedicated to specific countries on NATO’s eastern flank, where the alliance plans to build up stocks of equipment and ammunition.

“As a consequence, it strengthens NATO’s ability to monitor developments in the Baltic and to operate in the Baltic,” Kupchan said.

## russia war

### no escalation

#### Russia doesn’t have the capabilities for escalation, they’ve tried and failed :(

David E. **Sanger** and Julian E. **Barnes**, **6-22**-2022, "Many Russian Cyberattacks Failed in First Months of Ukraine War, Stud…," https://www.nytimes.com/2022/06/22/us/politics/russia-ukraine-cyberattacks.html, accessed 7-8-2022//cpd

WASHINGTON — A new examination of how Russia used its cybercapabilities in the first months of the war in Ukraine contains a number of surprises: Moscow conducted more cyberattacks than was realized at the time to bolster its invasion, but more than two-thirds of them failed, echoing its poor performance on the physical battlefield.

However, the study, published by Microsoft on Wednesday, suggested that the government of President Vladimir V. Putin was succeeding more than many expected with its disinformation campaign to establish a narrative of the war favorable to Russia, including making the case that the United States was secretly producing biological weapons inside Ukraine.

The report is the latest effort by many groups, including American intelligence agencies, to understand the interaction of a brutal physical war with a parallel — and often coordinated — struggle in cyberspace. It indicated that Ukraine was well prepared to fend off cyberattacks, after having endured them for many years. That was at least in part because of a well-established system of warnings from private-sector companies, including Microsoft and Google, and preparations that included moving much of Ukraine’s most important systems to the cloud, onto servers outside Ukraine.

The account of Russia’s cyberattacks and disinformation campaigns showed that only 29 percent of the attacks breached the targeted networks — in Ukraine, the United States, Poland and the Baltic nations. But it points to a more successful effort underway to dominate the information war, in which Russia has blamed Washington and Kyiv for starting the conflict that is now raging in Ukraine’s east and south.

The war is the first full-scale battle in which traditional and cyberweapons have been used side by side, and the race is on to explore the never-before-seen dynamic between the two. So far, very little of that dynamic has developed as expected.

Initially, analysts and government officials were struck by the absence of crippling Russian attacks on Ukraine’s power grid and communications systems. In April, President Biden’s national cyberdirector, Chris Inglis, said “the question of the moment” was why Russia had not made “a very significant play of cyber, at least against NATO and the United States.” He speculated that the Russians thought they were headed to quick victory in February but “were distracted” when the war effort ran into obstacles.

The Microsoft report said that Russia had attempted a major cyberattack on Feb. 23, the day before the physical invasion. That attack, using malware called FoxBlade, was an attempt to use “wiper” software that wiped out data on government networks. At roughly the same time, Russia attacked the Viasat satellite communications network, hoping to cripple the Ukrainian military.

“We were, I think, among the first to witness the first shots that were fired on the 23rd of February,” said Brad Smith, the president of Microsoft.

“It has been a formidable, intensive, even ferocious set of attacks, attacks that started with one form of wiper software, attacks that are really being coordinated from different parts of the Russian government,” he added on Wednesday at a forum at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation and Institute in Washington.

But many of the attacks were thwarted, or there was enough redundancy built into the Ukrainian networks that the efforts did little damage. The result, Mr. Smith said, is that the attacks have been underreported.

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The G7 agrees to seek price caps on Russian oil, as allied diplomacy shifts to NATO.

G7 leaders press ahead with price cap on Russian oil.

Biden speaks with Erdogan before a NATO summit.

In many instances, Russia coordinated its use of cyberweapons with conventional attacks, including taking down the computer network of a nuclear power plant before moving in its troops to take it over, Mr. Smith said. Microsoft officials declined to identify which plant Mr. Smith was referring to.

While much of Russia’s cyberactivity has focused on Ukraine, Microsoft has detected 128 network intrusions in 42 countries. Of the 29 percent of Russian attacks that have successfully penetrated a network, Microsoft concluded, only a quarter of those resulted in data being stolen.

Outside Ukraine, Russia has concentrated its attacks on the United States, Poland and two aspiring members of NATO, Sweden and Finland. Other alliance members were also targeted, especially as they began to supply Ukraine with more arms. Those breaches, though, have been limited to surveillance — indicating that Moscow is trying to avoid bringing NATO nations directly into the fight through cyberattacks, much as it is refraining from physical attacks on those countries.

#### No Russian escalation, Putin is focusing on getting more weapons to Ukraine [ALT: No Russian escalation, they can’t even supply the war in Ukraine]

Isabel **Van Brugen, 7-1**-2022, "Russia admits it's running out of weapons in Ukraine war," Newsweek, https://www.newsweek.com/russia-putin-admits-running-out-weapons-ukraine-war-invasion-state-duma-law-1720957, accessed 7-3-2022//cpd

For the first time, **Russia has admitted that it is running out of weapons in the Ukraine war**, after President Vladimir Putin's government created a draft federal law that would allow the country to quickly repair weapons and military equipment.

On Thursday evening, the Kremlin submitted a bill to the State Duma on "special economic measures" for "counterterrorist and other operations" outside of Russia.

An explanatory note attached to the bill said that there is, particularly amid Putin's war against Ukraine, "a short-term increased need for the repair of weapons and military equipment."

Russia Admits It's Running Out of Weapons

In this combination image, Vladimir Putin at the Ashgabat International Airport, late June,29,2022, in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan and inset of Pro Russian rebels fire grad rockets on Ukrainian positions

The bill proposed, among other measures, "the implementation of material assets from state reserves" and "the temporary activation of mobilization capacities and facilities," as well as overtime work in "individual organizations."

The text of the draft law notes the need for Russia to repair its weapons and military equipment amid "a special military operation in the territories of the Donetsk People's Republic, the Luhansk People's Republic and Ukraine," referring to the war against Ukraine, which Putin launched late February.

"The need to promptly meet these requirements, especially in the context of the introduction by foreign states and international organizations of restrictive measures against Russian citizens and Russian legal entities, will require temporarily focusing efforts in certain sectors of the economy (in certain areas), reloading the production capacities of organizations of the military-industrial complex, including mobilization, and to organize resource support for deliveries within the framework of the state defense order," the note said.

According to the explanatory note, the bill, if signed into law, would give the Kremlin the authority "to establish special regulations concerning labor relations for certain organizations, their divisions and selected production facilities."

This marks the first time Russia has signaled that it is suffering huge military losses in its war against Ukraine.

Ukrainian officials regularly provide updates on Russian military losses. On Friday, the general staff of the armed forces of Ukraine said on Facebook that so far, Russia has lost 35,750 military personnel, 1,577 tanks, 3,736 armored combat vehicles, 796 artillery systems, 246 multiple rocket launchers, 105 air defense systems, 217 aircraft, 645 operational-tactical UAVs, 15 ships/boats, 2,610 vehicles and tankers, and 186 helicopters.

The British defense ministry noted in an intelligence update late May that Russia's decision to deploy old Soviet-era tanks on the battlefield highlighted "Russia's shortage of modern, combat-ready equipment."

#### Status quo solves, the CISA is developing capabilities to defend against Russian cyberattacks now

Dave **Muoiomar** 3-25-**22**, "Amid warnings of potential Russian cyberattacks, new Senate bill directs CISA, HHS to shore up digital defenses," Fierce Healthcare, https://www.fiercehealthcare.com/health-tech/cybersecurity-healthcare-senate-bill-bipartisan-cisa-hhs-cassidy-rosen-new-bipartisan, accessed 7-6-2022//cpd

A bipartisan bill introduced Wednesday in the Senate aims to shore up the healthcare industry’s cyber defenses shortly after White House warnings of potential Russian cyberattacks.

The so-called Healthcare Cybersecurity Act would direct the Department of Homeland Security’s Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) and the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to work side by side on bolstering cybersecurity readiness among healthcare and public health organizations, according to statements from its co-sponsors.

Additionally, the bill would authorize cybersecurity training to healthcare and public health asset owners and operators as well as task CISA with conducting a new study on cybersecurity risks in these sectors.

“Health centers save lives and hold a lot of sensitive, personal information. This makes them a prime target for cyberattacks,” Sen. Bill Cassidy, M.D., R-Louisiana, a co-sponsor of the bill, said in a statement. “This bill protects patients’ data and public health by strengthening our resilience to cyber warfare.”

Announcements from Cassidy and fellow co-sponsor Jacky Rosen, D-Nevada, cited a recent Politico analysis of HHS data that found over 46 million people in the U.S. had their health data breached last year, representing a threefold increase in three years.

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Cyberattacks top list of 2022 health tech hazards alongside supply chain problems, damaged infusion pumps

Another report published earlier this year by cybersecurity company Critical Insights placed that number at 45 million but specifically noted that health plans and outpatient/specialty clinics saw a respective 35% and 41% increase in attack frequency from 2020 to 2021.

Longstanding calls for greater digital defenses were reiterated Monday by the White House, which cited “evolving intelligence” that the Russian government “is exploring options for potential cyberattacks” as a response to Western allies’ economic sanctions. The administration said CISA has already been working with “critical infrastructure” organizations to prepare for and mitigate a potential attack.

“In light of the threat of Russian cyberattacks, we must take proactive steps to enhance the cybersecurity of our healthcare and public health entities,” Rosen said in a statement on the new bill. “Hospitals and health centers are part of our critical infrastructure and increasingly the targets of malicious cyberattacks, which can result in data breaches, the cost of care being driven up, and negative patient health outcomes. This bipartisan bill will help strengthen cybersecurity protections and protect lives.”

#### Status quo solves- the updated strategic concept outlines shored up defenses against cyberattacks from Russia and China [ALT- also assumes interoperability, likely applicable against ai logistics]

**NATO 6-29**-22,29 June 2022 NATO 2022 STRATEGIC CONCEPT Adopted by Heads of State and Government at the NATO Summit in Madrid, https://www.nato.int/nato\_static\_fl2014/assets/pdf/2022/6/pdf/290622-strategic-concept.pdf//cpd

We will continue to enhance the collective readiness, responsiveness, deployability, integration and interoperability of our forces. We will individually and collectively deliver the full range of forces, capabilities, plans, resources, assets and infrastructure needed for deterrence and defence, including for high-intensity, multi-domain warfighting against nuclear-armed peer-competitors. We will ensure a robust, resilient and integrated command structure, increase the alignment of national and NATO defence plans and strengthen and modernise the NATO force structure. We will strengthen training and exercising, adapt and streamline our decision-making processes, enhance our planning and improve the effectiveness of our crisis response system.

23. Maritime security is key to our peace and prosperity. We will strengthen our posture and situational awareness to deter and defend against all threats in the maritime domain, uphold freedom of navigation, secure maritime trade routes and protect our main lines of communications.

24. We will expedite our digital transformation, adapt the NATO Command Structure for the information age and enhance our cyber defences, networks and infrastructure. We will promote innovation and increase our investments in emerging and disruptive technologies to retain our interoperability and military edge. We will work together to adopt and integrate new technologies, cooperate with the private sector, protect our innovation ecosystems, shape standards and commit to principles of responsible use that reflect our democratic values and human rights.

25. Maintaining secure use of and unfettered access to space and cyberspace are key to effective deterrence and defence. We will enhance our ability to operate effectively in space and cyberspace to prevent, detect, counter and respond to the full spectrum of threats, using all available tools. A single or cumulative set of malicious cyber activities; or hostile operations to, from, or within space; could reach the level of armed attack and could lead the North Atlantic Council to invoke Article 5 of the North Atlantic Treaty. We recognise the applicability of international law and will promote responsible behaviour in cyberspace and space. We will also boost the resilience of the space and cyber capabilities upon which we depend for our collective defence and security.

#### 800 cyberattacks in Ukraine since the war started proves there’s no threshold for escalation

Sergiu **Gatlan**, **6-30**-2022, "Ukraine targeted by almost 800 cyberattacks since the war started," BleepingComputer, https://www.bleepingcomputer.com/news/security/ukraine-targeted-by-almost-800-cyberattacks-since-the-war-started/, accessed 7-6-2022//cpd

Ukrainian government and private sector organizations have been the target of 796 cyberattacks since the start of the war on February 24, 2022, when Russia invaded Ukraine.

According to Ukraine's cybersecurity defense and security agency SSSCIP (short for State Service of Special Communications and Information Protection), the country's networks have been under a constant barrage of hacking attempts since the war started.

"Enemy hackers continue to attack Ukraine. The intensity of cyberattacks has not decreased since the beginning of Russia's full-scale military invasion, although their quality has been declining," SSSCIP said on Thursday.

Apple’s new Lockdown Mode defends against government spyware

The country's government and local authorities, as well as its defense organizations, are the key sectors that have been targeted the most during the first months of the war, in a total of 281 attacks.

The list of industry sectors heavily impacted by cyberattacks also includes the financial, telecom, infrastructure, and energy sectors.

Most of the attacks detected by Ukraine's cybersecurity defense agency were focused on information harvesting (242 incidents), while the rest aimed to breach, take down, or infect targeted systems with malware.

Cyberattacks against Ukrainian orgs

Image: SSSCIP Ukraine

Russian cyberattacks linked to military strikes

SSCIP's data aligns with a report published by Microsoft in April when the company revealed the scale of Russian-backed cyberattacks against Ukraine since the February invasion.

Tom Burt, Microsoft's corporate vice president for customer security and trust, said that Redmond's security analysts detected multiple Russian hacking groups targeting the country's infrastructure and Ukrainian citizens in hundreds of attacks aiming to deploy destructive malware on critical systems and disrupt civilian access to reliable information and critical life services.

"Starting just before the invasion, we have seen at least six separate Russia-aligned nation-state actors launch more than 237 operations against Ukraine – including destructive attacks that are ongoing and threaten civilian welfare," Burt revealed in April.

### yes escalation

#### Despite current lack of escalation, experts predict a major destabilizing attack soon

Kyle **Alspach**, **6-29**-2022, "Security experts brace for possible Russian cyberattacks," Protocol, https://www.protocol.com/enterprise/russia-cyberattacks-ukraine-putin-us, accessed 7-6-2022//cpd

In the four months since its invasion of Ukraine, Russia hasn't intensified its usual pattern of cyberattacks against the U.S. and Western Europe in response to sanctions and Ukrainian military aid, as many expected. But that doesn't mean the risk of escalation with the West is gone, numerous experts told Protocol.

In other words, don't lower your shields just yet.

At the moment, it's clear that Vladimir Putin has made a calculation not to inflame tensions with the West, said Dmitri Alperovitch, the Russian-born cybersecurity and geopolitics expert who co-founded CrowdStrike.

But if things don't go Putin's way on Ukraine and sanctions, he "may very well resort back to cyber to increase pressure on the West," Alperovitch said.

Ciaran Martin, who was the founding CEO of the U.K. government's National Cyber Security Centre, agreed that Putin’s approach toward the West on cyber may change in response to events on the ground in Ukraine. “Russia could decide that it needs to make a point to the West, in an escalatory way," Martin said, though “the chances of [that] are not high at the moment.”

To get a better sense of the current state of the Russian cyber threat against the West, Protocol recently spoke with 20 experts — including threat researchers, former government officials and those with expertise on critical infrastructure and Russia.

A number of them are concerned that, as soon as later this year, Putin may give the green light for major cyberattacks aimed at disrupting critical infrastructure and supply chains in the West. A surge of attacks from proxy groups is also probable, according to some Russia watchers.

"I fear this is a 'calm before the storm' situation," said Chester Wisniewski, principal research scientist at cybersecurity giant Sophos.

In all likelihood, the political and economic issues facing the Kremlin will only continue to mount, raising the prospects of Russia bringing new cyber pressure against the U.S., said Chris Krebs, former director of the U.S. Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA).

"Once they start losing good options, they're going to start using some of their capabilities they've kept in reserve to strike back at the U.S. and say, 'Hey, wipe off the sanctions,'" Krebs said. "How are they going to do it? It would be a highly visible, likely destructive attack."

#### Russia will attack!

Paul **Steidleer**, **6-21-**2022, "Political Games Empower Russian Cyberattacks – InsideSources," InsideSources, Paul Steidler is a senior fellow with the Lexington Institute, a public policy think tank in Arlington, Virginia. He wrote this for InsideSources.com.https://insidesources.com/political-games-empower-russian-cyberattacks/, accessed 7-8-2022//cpd

The United States faces an alarming and growing threat of cyberattacks from Russia. Some in Congress would compound these dangers by enacting legislation that would force America’s leading tech companies to allow access to their software, hardware and operating systems to customers and competitors in the U.S. and overseas.

The Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Agency (CISA) has been blunt about Russia.

“The Russian government engages in malicious cyber activities to enable broad-scope cyber espionage, to suppress certain social and political activity, to steal intellectual property, and to harm regional and international adversaries,” CISA says on its website.

During a “60 Minutes” interview on April 17, CISA director Jen Easterly said: “We are seeing evolving intelligence about Russia planning for potential attacks. And we have to assume that there’s going to be a breach. There’s going to be an incident. There’s going to be an attack.

Last year, a ransomware attack on the Colonial Pipeline, thought to have been done by criminals in Russia but not the Russian government itself, caused widespread disruption even though it lasted just a few days. Coordinated, sustained attacks from Russia’s government would impose exponentially more harm.

Against this backdrop, the Senate is poised to vote on the American Innovation and Choice Online Act that would compound these dangers. Introduced by senators Amy Klobuchar, D-Minn., and Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa, it broadly requires Big Tech companies to provide information about back-end infrastructure, that is hardware and software, to competitors and third parties.

While exceptions are in place for cybersecurity threats, the language governing this is vague, and the enforcement powers given to regulators are exceptionally strong. With companies facing fines of up to 10 percent of annual revenue for non-compliance, there will be considerable pressure to give in.

Bad actors do not announce they are bad actors before penetrating companies. Given this and the heightened dangers from Russia, now is a time to be especially cautious about granting such access. Even the European Union has not been as reckless as AICO would be from a cybersecurity standpoint.

Regardless of how events go in the war with Ukraine, Russia’s cyberattack risks will be extremely high during the next year or longer. A Ukrainian victory, or battlefield humiliation, could lead Russia to lash out and flex its cyber muscle to deter U.S. support for the Ukrainians’ brave an honorable fight.

And a Russian victory, with sanctions still in effect, could lead President Vladimir Putin to use cyber as weapon to curb sanctions.

Russia has already blatantly engaged in cyberattacks against Ukraine’s postal service, Ukraine’s electric grid, and a Saudi Arabian oil refinery. And we know there are no limits to Russian brutality in Ukraine.

As the U.S. Chamber of Commerce has documented, America’s large tech companies, including Google, Microsoft and Amazon, are playing a critical role in preventing cyberattacks in Ukraine. Many other world-class companies are helping keep us safe from electric grid attacks, such as Raytheon Technologies, Sierra Nevada Corporation and Forescout.

These companies know that now is a time for especially strong vigilance on cybersecurity, which the U.S. Congress should take to heart.

### nato cohesion high now

#### NATO cohesion against Russia and China is strong now

Steven **Erlanger, 6-29**-2022, "A More Muscular NATO Emerges as West Confronts Russia and China," https://www.nytimes.com/2022/06/29/world/europe/nato-expansion-ukraine-war.html, accessed 7-4-2022//cpd

MADRID — Faced with a newly aggressive Russia, NATO leaders on Wednesday outlined a muscular new vision that names Moscow as the military alliance’s primary adversary but also, for the first time, **declares China to be a** strategic “challenge.”

It was a fundamental shift for an alliance that was born in the Cold War but came to view a post-Soviet Russia as a potential ally, and did not focus on China at all.

But that was before Feb. 24, when Russian forces poured across the border into Ukraine, and Chinese leaders pointedly did not join in the global condemnation that followed.

“The deepening strategic partnership between the People’s Republic of China and the Russian Federation and their mutually reinforcing attempts to undercut the rules-based international order run counter to our values and interests,” NATO leaders said in a new mission statement issued during their summit in Madrid.

The announcement came on a day when a top U.S. intelligence official said victory in Ukraine was not yet in Russia’s grasp, the two sides said they had exchanged more than 200 prisoners of war, and a Ukrainian official said, “There are battles everywhere.”

In a flurry of steps at the summit in Madrid, which ends Thursday, President Biden and other NATO leaders sought to respond to President Vladimir V. Putin’s resurgent and bellicose Russia. Just before publishing the mission statement, they extended formal membership invitations to the until-now nonaligned Nordic countries Finland and Sweden, paving the way for NATO’s most significant enlargement in more than a decade.

“In a moment when Putin has shattered peace in Europe and attacked the very tenets of the rules-based order, the United States and our allies — we’re going to step up,” Mr. Biden said. “We’re stepping up.”

The secretary-general of NATO, Jens Stoltenberg, announced that thousands of new troops would be deployed in eight countries on NATO’s eastern flank. And Mr. Biden said that Washington would deploy an Army garrison headquarters and a field support battalion in Poland, the first U.S. forces permanently located on NATO’s eastern flank.

China offered a chilly response to the new NATO moves.

“We oppose certain elements clamoring for NATO’s involvement in Asia Pacific, or an Asia Pacific version of NATO based on military alliance,” said China’s ambassador to the United Nations, Zhang Jun. “The outdated Cold War script must not be reenacted in Asia Pacific. The turmoil in parts of the world must not be allowed in Asia Pacific.”

#### The Madrid summit proves cohesion against Russia is at an all time high

Lindsay **Maizland**, **06-30**-2022, "NATO Countries Signal Resolve at Summit: What Does It Mean for Russia?," Council on Foreign Relations, https://www.cfr.org/in-brief/nato-countries-signal-resolve-summit-what-does-it-mean-russia, accessed 7-4-2022//cpd

Russia’s strategic position has deteriorated substantially as a consequence of President Vladimir Putin’s decision to invade Ukraine. NATO is more unified in opposition to Russia than it has been for years, NATO has more forces along its borders than ever since the end of the Cold War, and Finland and Sweden are set to join the alliance. Talking to the press along with U.S. President Joe Biden, NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg noted the irony: Putin wanted less NATO on his borders, but because of his actions, he’s getting more.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy appears on a television screen as he delivers a statement at the start of the NATO summit in Madrid.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy delivers a statement at the start of the NATO summit in Madrid. Gabriel Bouys/AFP/Getty Images Share

Nevertheless, Russia’s reaction has been surprisingly mild. Senior officials have declared that Russia will take compensatory steps to guarantee its security, which could include additional troops and perhaps nuclear forces in its border regions. However, in May, Putin said that Russia has no problems with Finland and Sweden and that their joining NATO does not pose a direct threat, as long as NATO does not build up military contingents and infrastructure in those countries. What lies behind this stance is unclear, but, given the tough battle in Ukraine, Putin might not want to take on additional problems.

Could changes to force posture and strategic concept have any impact on the assault on Ukraine or Russia’s longer-term calculations?

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NATO’s new force posture and strategic concept are not likely to prompt Putin to rethink his Ukraine strategy. He is making slow but steady progress on the battlefield in the east and south. Nothing suggests that he believes that the West’s provision of more sophisticated weaponry is going to shift fortunes on the ground. But the new circumstances in Europe do pose a long-term strategic challenge to Russia. Increasingly isolated in Europe, Putin was surely pleased to attend the recent summits of the BRICS grouping (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa) and of the Caspian states to underscore that Russia has friends and allies elsewhere. Whether they can compensate for the loss of European ties is another matter.

Did the summit reveal a newfound sense of NATO unity?

The summit was an impressive show of resolve to counter Russia’s aggression, including through continued diplomatic, economic, and military support for Ukraine. NATO pledged to further expand its military support for its vulnerable allies along the Russian frontier. In particular, the United States announced that it will establish a permanent headquarters for its V Corps in Poland. Most important was the eleventh-hour agreement that Turkey reached with Finland and Sweden, by which Ankara lifted its objections to their joining the alliance and allowed NATO to begin the accession process.

## misc

### bbb uq updates

#### reconciliation fails- McConnell is giving ultimatums!

Steve **Benen 07-01**-2022, "Mitch McConnell’s new hostage threat is brazen (even for him)," MSNBC, https://www.msnbc.com/rachel-maddow-show/maddowblog/mitch-mcconnells-new-hostage-threat-brazen-even-rcna36294, accessed 7-3-2022//cpd

Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell has never been timid about launching legislative hostage strategies. Indeed, for the Kentucky Republican, the word isn’t even especially inflammatory: McConnell has literally referenced “hostages“ when describing his tactics.

That said, the Senate GOP leader’s newest threat is brazen, even by McConnell’s standards. Roll Call reported:

Republicans won’t back compromise legislation to boost domestic semiconductor manufacturing and U.S. competitiveness with China if Democrats continue to negotiate a partisan budget package that can pass without GOP support, Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell said Thursday.

“Let me be perfectly clear: there will be no bipartisan USICA as long as Democrats are pursuing a partisan reconciliation bill,” the Kentucky Republican declared via Twitter.

At this point, I suspect some of you are asking, “What in the world is USICA?” so let’s review how we arrived at this point.

As legislative fights go, this one hasn’t exactly been front-page news, but lawmakers — from both chambers and both parties — have spent much of the last year on an ambitious bill to bolster American competitiveness and counter China, in large part by addressing domestic semiconductor shortages.

The point of the measure — the “United States Innovation and Competition Act” (USICA), though it’s gone by a few different names — is to make Americans less dependent on foreign manufacturing, especially in high tech. Some have even characterized this as a national security issue. It’s how this became a rare effort that’s intended to address a concern Democrats and Republicans take seriously.

It’s why the House and Senate both passed versions of the bill, sending the issue to a conference committee that began work in April on merging the competing measures into one final package. Most Capitol Hill observers agreed that USICA was likely to pass before the fall elections.

That is, until yesterday.

McConnell’s unexpected tweet was effectively a shot across the bow: The Senate Republican leader is prepared to throw away a year’s worth of work, derailing a bill his own party takes seriously, unless Democrats abandon their budget reconciliation bill.

And at this point, some of you are now also asking, “There’s a Democratic budget reconciliation bill?” The short answer is no, but after the Build Back Better effort was left for dead months ago, there’s been significant progress of late on a new bill that would focus on, among other things, lowering prescription drug costs.

#### Manchin is on board for BBB- Sinema is key

Joseph **Zeballos-Roig**, **7-2**-2022, "Senate Democrats are edging closer to a deal with Manchin to resurrect Biden's economic agenda. They'll face Sinema next.," Business Insider, https://www.businessinsider.com/senate-democrats-sinema-deal-biden-economic-agenda-bbb-millionaire-tax-2022-7, accessed 7-3-2022//cpd

Senate Democrats are inching closer to a deal with Sen. Joe Manchin of West Virginia to resurrect swaths of President Joe Biden's stalled economic agenda once known as Build Back Better. That has positioned the party to advance over GOP opposition a measure that would slash prescription drug prices, one of their chief priorities stretching back years.

However, if Democrats led by Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer have any hope of securing other initiatives like an extension of enhanced Affordable Care Act subsidies, their attention must soon shift to another centrist with outsized influence over the party's agenda: Sen. Kyrsten Sinema of Arizona.

Manchin and Sinema hold the power of the purse to opposite ends. While Manchin largely dictates how Democrats are spending their money, Sinema prescribes how they're raising it to pay for new clean energy and healthcare programs.

"Her position is now is not the time to raise taxes in any way that would harm small business owners or individuals who are not super rich," John LaBombard, Sinema's former communications director, told Insider. "Senator Sinema is not somebody to announce as a position without thinking it through or has one position one day and a different position the next."

The Arizona Democrat was tight-lipped throughout talks that dragged on for much of last year, often spurning questions about her positions from Capitol Hill reporters. She preferred negotiating directly with Biden and senior White House officials on the size and scope of their economic spending plan.

At one point, Sinema nearly stormed out of an Oval Office meeting after the president spilled to other Democrats the maximum amount she wanted to spend on the economic package, as reported in the book "This Will Not Pass" by New York Times reporters Jonathan Martin and Alex Burns.

Sinema's approach vexed many of her Democratic colleagues and kept them guessing on what she actually wanted in their social spending and climate bill. Manchin later killed the House-approved legislation in December.

#### Manchin is agreeing to a path forward!!

Sahil **Kapur**, **6-29**-2022, "Senate Democrats see 'major progress' on Biden agenda bill, hope for July vote," NBC News, https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/congress/senate-democrats-see-major-progress-biden-agenda-bill-hope-july-vote-rcna36041, accessed 7-3-2022//cpd

WASHINGTON — Senate Democrats are **close to a deal** to lower prescription drug costs as part of a larger party-line package to advance a number of President Joe Biden's economic priorities, three sources familiar with the negotiations said.

Democrats plan to submit a "finalized agreement" on allowing Medicare to negotiate prices with pharmaceutical companies to a key Senate official "in the coming days" to see whether it complies with the chamber's strict budget rules, one of the sources said.

The source, who requested anonymity to discuss sensitive negotiations between Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., and Sen. Joe Manchin, D-W.Va., described the expected move as "major progress" that shows Democratic leadership wants to "move forward with a bill on the floor as early as next month."

There's no final deal on the broader bill, however, as the other major parts of the "reconciliation" package — energy and climate policy provisions and tax changes to raise revenue — are still being negotiated between Schumer and Manchin. Unless an agreement can be reached quickly, it would be difficult to pass the bill before a scheduled monthlong August recess.

**Manchin’s office said Wednesday there is consensus and a path forward on drug pricing.**

“Senator Manchin has long advocated for proposals that would lower prescription drug costs for seniors, and his support for this proposal has never been in question,” Manchin spokeswoman Sam Runyon said. “He’s glad that all 50 Democrats agree.”

What's in the drug pricing deal?

According to a summary of provisions obtained by NBC News, the emerging deal would empower Medicare to directly negotiate prescription drug prices starting next year to lower costs for consumers. It would cap out-of-pocket costs for Medicare patients at $2,000 per year and allow the cap to be broken up into monthly payments. It also would impose a new "inflation rebate" policy forcing drug companies to send money back to consumers if they raise prices above inflation.

In addition, the deal would add new incentives for drugmakers and insurers to limit drug price hikes, provide free vaccines for seniors, enhance premium and copay assistance for lower-income people and ensure the Department of Health and Human Services always negotiates for the maximum number of eligible drugs. And it would require negotiations to lower prices "if a drug company continues to block generic competition," the summary said.

Manchin rejected the House-passed Build Back Better Act in December but later indicated openness to a slimmed-down version that includes drug savings, climate and energy policy and higher taxes on upper earners and corporations. The Senate has not taken any action since then.

### at- nato obsolete

#### NATO is needed as much now as during the cold war

Andreas **Kluth**, **6-30**-2022, "Rumors of NATO’s Brain Death Were Greatly Exaggerated," Bloomberg, https://www.bloomberg.com/opinion/articles/2022-06-30/nato-turkey-s-nod-to-finland-and-sweden-create-a-baltic-lake-to-buttress-east, accessed 7-3-2022//cpd

Far from comatose, NATO is today more vital and vigorous than it’s been since the height of the Cold War. It remains the greatest guarantor of security in the West and the entire free world. It is without doubt the most successful alliance in history.

When Macron was speaking off the cuff in 2019 — a time so recent in years and yet so distant in events — the allies had a lot to worry about. One concern was a US president, Donald Trump, who disdained America’s partners and cast doubt on NATO’s theretofore sacrosanct mutual-defense clause, and thereby its power to deter aggression.

Another worry was NATO’s mission drift. The original threat — from the Soviet Union between 1949 and 1991, Russia thereafter — appeared to wane. China and climate change weren’t on the official list of adversaries yet. The case for “out of area” operations — from the Balkans to the Horn of Africa — had often been flimsy.

The credit for curing this identity crisis belongs, of course, to Russian President Vladimir Putin. By becoming exactly the kind of threat NATO was founded to defend against, he proved his erstwhile appeasers wrong and the Cassandras right. Putin’s attack on Ukraine this year has been so brutal, irrational and inhumane that all allies have remembered NATO’s raison d’etre: deterrence of Russia, and — if it comes to that — defensive war against it.

The immediate outcome of the Madrid summit will therefore be the refortification of NATO’s entire eastern front facing Russia and its accomplice, Belarus. Its members will also increase their military spending. That includes, at long last, Germany.

Above all, the alliance will expand, by adding two militarily strong and geographically strategic members: Finland and Sweden. Both countries long prided themselves on their neutrality, but now want the safety of NATO’s Article 5 — an attack on one is an attack on all. In return, they can help turn the Baltic Sea into a NATO lake, the better to defend the most exposed allies — Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia.

Putin Wanted Less NATO; He’ll Get More of It

The alliance would have more control of the Baltic Sea once Sweden and Finland join

The backstory to this Scandinavian enlargement highlights another difference between 2019 and 2022. It is that NATO once again, as during the Cold War, benefits from American leadership.

Recep Tayyip Erdogan, the president of Turkey, had been blocking the accession of Finland and Sweden, accusing both of coddling Kurdish groups he considers terrorists. In exhausting negotiations between the three countries, Turkey has now extracted enough concessions from the Nordics for Erdogan to drop his veto. Sweden and Finland will apparently clamp down on Kurdish organizations, but without sacrificing the rule of law in individual cases.

The decisive nudge appears to have come from US President Joe Biden, who gave his Turkish counterpart a good talking to. Biden is loath to reward autocrats — and that’s what Erdogan is nowadays — with one-on-one time. But this week Biden reminded Erdogan of the bigger geostrategic picture, while publicly keeping his role deliberately below the radar. This is the opposite of the approach taken by Trump, who relished causing discord at maximum volume.

The allies won’t be able to resolve all vexing questions this week. It’s far from clear how they should deal with China, a potential adversary in the future, or climate change, the meta-problem that will cause countless conflicts to come. Nor is it obvious how exactly NATO and the European Union, which is also trying to strengthen its internal military cooperation, should overlap. Above all, NATO must — in secrecy — war-game the worst scenario: What if Putin uses nuclear weapons?

That said, the alliance deserves accolades. It is containing the kind of aggressor it was built for, and thereby keeping its allies as safe as they can be. Jens Stoltenberg, NATO’s secretary general, said it best. Putin wanted less NATO; instead, he’s getting more of it. Good.