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Cover Story

Rishi Sunak's 30 days into 10 Downing: Five priorities ahead



Image source: Reuters/Independent.co.uk

About NIAS Global Politics

Global Politics is a primary focus of the NIAS Programme on Science, Technology and International Relations (STIR). The primary focus is on contemporary world affairs. The Programme publishes *The World This Week*, and *NIAS Fortnightly on Science Technology and International Relations*.

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As a part of pursuing global politics, the programme has started area studies. Europe is a part of the NIAS area studies initiative. With an aim to nurture a pool of scholars working on issues related to Europe, the scope of the studies would range from regional/sub-regional cooperation to new technology and innovations and include gender studies, migration issues, and climate change.

NIAS Europe Studies will focus on capacity building amongst the young scholars, expert lectures by prominent academicians and diplomats, monthly discussions on Europe, and a Monthly Dispatch – *Europe Monitor*.

About Europe Monitor

Europe Monitor is an academic initiative by NIAS Global Politics and the KAS India Office.

The Monthly is an integral part of NIAS Europe Studies. It includes focused commentaries on Europe, short notes, and daily updates on contemporary Europe.

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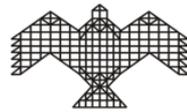
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National Institute of
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About NIAS

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The objective is to nurture a broad base of scholars, managers and leaders who would respond to the complex challenges that face contemporary India and global society, with insight, sensitivity, confidence and dedication.



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The Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS) is a political foundation. Established in 1955 as “Society for Christian-Democratic Civic Education”, in 1964, the Foundation proudly took on the name of Konrad Adenauer, the first Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany.

With 16 regional offices in Germany and over 120 offices abroad, the Konrad Adenauer Foundation is committed to achieving and maintaining peace, freedom and justice through political education. KAS promotes and preserves free democracy, social market economy, and the development and consolidation of the value consensus. KAS also focus on consolidating democracy, the unification of Europe and the strengthening of transatlantic relations, as well as on development cooperation.

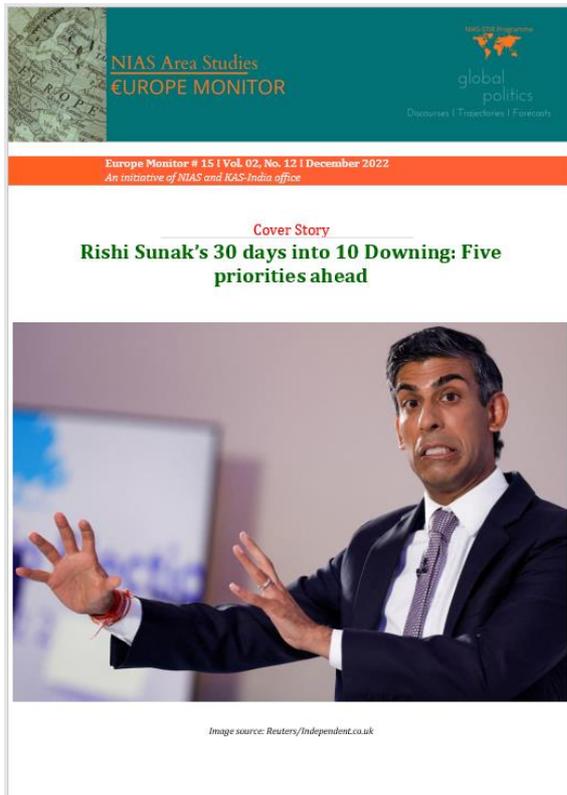
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Source: Energycharter.org, Martin Sylvest/Ritzau Scanpix via AP, Cybersec_EU/Twitter, AP Photo/Darko Bandic

Europe Monitor

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COVER STORY

Rishi Sunak's 30 days into 10 Downing: Five priorities ahead
By Padmashree Anandhan

EM COMMENT

EU member states exit Energy Charter Treaty: Three reasons
By Sai Pranav

DENMARK

Denmark Elections 2022: Election result, Campaign issues and challenge

SLOVENIA

Slovenia Presidential Election: Four Issues

THE UK

UK's new push to promote economic growth and stability: Three Takeaways

REGIONAL

EU's Cyber Defence Policy & Action Plan 2.0: Key takeaways

EU's Action Plan on Military Mobility 2.0: Three takeaways

WAR IN UKRAINE: DAILY UPDATES



Source: Kremlin.ru, ISW, Tasnim News Agency, Ukrinform, Ukrinform, RFE/RL/Serhii Nuzhnenko/Reuters/The Guardian

War in Ukraine section covers the everyday developments from Day 279 to Day 250 in four dimensions. First, The War on the Ground: Second, The Moscow View: Claims by Russia. Third, The West View: Responses from the US and Europe. Fourth, The Global Fallouts: Implications of the Ukraine war.

By Padmashree Anandhan, Sai Pranav, and Madhura S Mahesh

EM SHORT NOTES



Source: French Armed Forces Ministry, REUTERS/Gene Blevins, faz.net, REUTERS/Florion Goga, Michael Kappeler/Reuters, Gareth Fuller/PA

EM Short Notes provide a brief overview of the latest developments in Europe in political, economic, security, climate, maritime, and science and technology aspects. The daily developments cover from the UK, western Europe, Nordic, Baltic, Balkans to the far east Russia.

By Padmashree Anandhan, Sai Pranav, and Madhura S Mahesh

BELARUS

DENMARK

FINLAND

LATVIA

SLOVENIA

THE CZECH REPUBLIC

THE UK

TURKEY

REGIONAL

CLIMATE

ECONOMY

ENERGY

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

SPACE

INTERNATIONAL

COVER STORY

Rishi Sunak's 30 days into 10 Downing: Five priorities ahead

Padmashree Anandhan

On 25 October, UK's Prime Minister Rishi Sunak delivered his first speech after winning the contest without a ballot. The appointment of a new Prime Minister was the last resort of the Tories to save the party and put an end to the uncertainty cycle. 30 days into the office, Sunak does not seem to be the end point to the crisis but has shown determination to correct UK's economic course. The immediate priorities for the new Prime Minister would be to control the inflation, fix the fiscal credibility to slighen the market reactions. Next set of tasks will be to address the gap in the business, public services such as National Health System and education as the winter arrives and rising energy prices adds to the inflation. Only upon addressing this, Sunak can survive longer and if the crisis outgrows, early general elections would be the next.

Short-term

First, bolstering the value of Pound. Former Prime Minister Liz Truss's mini-budget plan to economic shot down the value of pound to the lowest, triggering "sell-off in government debt." This pressurised the Bank of England to intervene to prevent financial instability. The problem did not begin here but was only point of quick escalation, because UK is one of seven countries which is yet to recover to its pre-pandemic levels and Ukraine war has worsened it through hike in energy and food prices. Although the appointment of new leader did increase the pound value by 1.9 per cent, a lot of spending cut and increased taxes are on the way to reduce the market fluctuations. While the Bank of England has warned for a long recession and its members of monetary policy committee have pointed the BREXIT to be the reason behind the hike in prices and lowered wages. Sunak and UK Chancellor Jeremy Hunt have denied and have stressed that UK will deliver. The time of the delivery is going to matter the most as the economic crunch nears.

Medium-term

Second, streamlining National Health public services. The conservative leaders have kept the health service as priority in their agenda, but in real people have suffered due to long waiting time, with more than 6200 deaths were recorded in August which was not due to COVID-19. Another set of undiagnosed people who have left out due to pandemic would also have to be treated especially those with Cancer which requires early treatment. This condition is prevalent only in winters, but the elapse in health care has begun to expose in summer questioning the government's capacity. It is expected to get worsen with worker strikes, quitting of staff in health services due to exhaustive work hours and demand for more pay. To fix this, the government must fix its financials to improvise the health services and avoid earning the public dissatisfaction.

Third, exhausting reserves of schools.

September marked the new academic year but with cost-of living crisis, teacher strikes, and doubling electricity prices has sparked the funding crisis in UK's schools. The current reserve held by the academy trust is GBP 1.5 million which will only be sufficient to run the schools for two years with the inflation rate at 11.1 per cent. This is about to worsen with upshot electricity bills and demand for better salaries. Therefore, to address this, the UK government needs to keep the inflation from escalating more or plan to allot funds to the education reserves by 2024. Else the impact would be severe on the schools and mainly for disadvantaged students.

Long-term

Fourth, clearing the business bottleneck. the post pandemic and Ukraine war is starting to expose the ill-effects of BREXIT for the UK's economy. The Office for Budget Responsibility has warned a reduction of 15 per cent in UK's trade due to BREXIT and the Autumn budget forecasts the comeback of Austerity in the UK. Amongst the big and small businesses, the private sector

has been hit the most and CEO's have resigned due to brewing financial pressure. For example, Fortnum & Mason, The Newt in Somerset, Tea People, Marks & Spencer Group Plc, and Jaguar Land Rover have faced the brunt of the BREXIT due to new regulatory norms to trade into the EU leading to double down of profits and closure of branches. To get the inflation under the target, the businesses have been asked to get ready for "pay restraint" as the income raise is expected to add more to the inflation. This will result in more protests, worker strikes and quitting of staff for better pay. To protect the businesses, the increase rates must be reduced to a limit to encourage consumers to spend more. Stabilizing the business market will be the challenge for the UK, especially when it is looking outside the EU.

Fifth, UK's foreign policy is expected to take a diversion, as Sunak is determined than any of the previous Prime Ministers in looking for trade alternatives. Coming from a businessman background Sunak has observed China as a threat to international economy and security, but has not denied or stopped the efforts in making it a potential

alternative for its businesses. In case of Ukraine, UK's military aid can be expected to slow down considering the economic stress and defence budget cannot increase from 2.5 per cent as it will add more to the inflation. The economic aspect would be the overpowering factor in UK's foreign policy for next years would revolve around furthering cooperation with the US, Canada in Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP Pacific trade bloc), Netherlands, India (FTA and CPTPP), Australia (AUKUS, FTA, CPTPP trading bloc), South Africa (Turbocharge infrastructure, green hydrogen, solar power), and Egypt (renewable energies). Therefore, the foreign policy can be expected to be more forward looking into the transatlantic, South Asia and Africa, while China and the EU remains to unfold with economic inflation.

About the author

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COMMENT

EU member states exit Energy Charter Treaty: Three reasons

By Sai Pranav

Putin showcases a stronger Russia and a reinforced partnership in the far East

EU member states stand against Energy Charter Treaty: Three reasons

On 21 October, France's President Emmanuel Macron announced the withdrawal of France from the Energy Charter Treaty (ECT) since the charter did not align with the Paris agreement and its climate goal. Previously Russia withdrew in 2009, and Italy in 2016. Spain, Poland and Netherlands have submitted a proposal to withdraw from the treaty. Germany and Belgium are next in line to withdraw from the treaty following France's exit. Out of the 53 signatories, only European states are trying to pull out of the ECT, while the African and Central Asian countries and Japan are yet to indicate their stance.

What is Energy Charter Treaty?

The ECT is a treaty signed in 1994 in Lisbon introduced the capitalist market model in the former Soviet Union countries. It came into effect in 1998 aimed to strengthen the cross-border cooperation between the international countries on energy. The primary objective was to exploit the fossil fuel-rich former Soviet countries. The treaty permits energy investors to sue a country's government if it introduces policies that might affect their future revenue. Any policies against fossil fuels are taken to court by the investors fearing loss of their investment. Fossil fuel investors levy pressure on the national governments to continue with the usage of non-renewable sources, thus slowing down the transition to green energy for these countries. The EU countries pointing are attempting to withdraw from the treaty. However, the UK and Switzerland are keen on staying in the treaty. They have not responded to the exit of the EU countries.

Three reasons

First, incompatibility with the European Green Deal. The European States have a goal of being climate-neutral by 2050. However,

the treaty does not allow the countries to transit into green energy and renewable resources. Fossil fuel investors have been placing lawsuits against countries which recognize policies that look to reduce carbon emissions from fossil fuels. The investors blame the government policies for their future losses. The litigations hinder the EU states from trying to reduce their carbon-emission levels. The usage of fossil fuels will only increase the level of greenhouse gases emission into the atmosphere, thereby causing more climate change issues. The companies have caused the renewable energy transition in Europe to slow down and are responsible for the increasing carbon footprints in Europe. The treaty risks climate goals and offers more protection to the fossil fuel industry.

Second, fear over lawsuits and the sunset clause. Fossil fuel firms have subjected the countries that have implemented policies that affect their future income to litigation in which they are to pay huge compensations.

“The usage of fossil fuels will only increase the level of greenhouse gases emission into the atmosphere, thereby causing more climate change issues.”

Thereby creating a concern amongst the countries over their net-zero goals to become subject to multimillion lawsuits. In 2021, a German energy company RWE filed a lawsuit against the Netherlands government for EUR 1.4 billion in damages due to the Dutch passing a law to phase-out coal. The treaty has a sunset clause which makes a country vulnerable to lawsuits for 20 years even if they had exited from the treaty. The EU proposed a modernization law which made the countries vulnerable to lawsuits for ten years if they had received it during their stay at the treaty and one year if they

received it after they had withdrawn. An example of the sunset clause is the UK oil firm Rockhopper Exploration receiving EUR 210 million in compensation from Italy's government for banning offshore drilling. Rockhopper had said it planned to invest EUR 33 million in an oilfield project. Italy had to pay compensation six years after its exit from the treaty.

Third, the EU greenhouse gas emission rate and climate change. The restriction caused by fossil fuel investors allows the EU countries and those part of the treaty to use non-renewable resources, ultimately leading to higher carbon emission rates and global warming along with climate change.

According to the European Commission's JRC Science for Policy 2022 report, the EU member states had their total fossil CO2 emission increase by 6.5 per cent in 2021 compared to 2020. Countries trying to exit from the treaty or have already withdrawn have a high CO2 emission rate in 2021. The figures in 2021 suggest that Germany has the largest CO2 emission, with 24 per cent in the EU, followed by Poland at 11.6 per cent, Italy at 11.5 per cent, France at 10.9 per cent and Spain at 8.4 per cent. The figures show that the fossil fuel usage by the governments that are being pressured by the investors due to the treaty has also contributed to the emission rate of the countries. Carbon emission has also contributed to climate change. The impact of climate change was visible in 2022 across Europe. Europe faced one of the worst droughts, heatwaves, wildfires and flash floods across the continent, especially the southern and western parts. Spain, France, and Germany suffered severe droughts, heatwaves and wildfires. Poland also suffered drought and heat waves. Europe saw the highest temperature recorded and monster wildfires. These has raised concerns

amongst the scientific community to have caused due to increased use of fossil fuels and drastic impact on climate change. With the treaty has indirectly and directly being responsible for climate change impact in Europe, resulting in the EU member states to break away from the treaty to achieve their net-zero and climate-neutral goal by 2050.

Oyuun-Erdene spoke on Mongolia's problem in accessing the sea and the land-locked positions which have led to many border checks and conditions limiting its economic growth. He proposed three areas of collaboration. First, the construction of a gas pipeline from Russia to China via Mongolia to keep the economies "united." Second, more investments towards establishing an eastern vertical railway line linking Russia, China, and Mongolia. Third, energy project partnership for meeting domestic needs, exporting electricity and producing green energy through partners from Russia and China.

The representative from China agreed on the growing Sino-Russia relations and Russia's support for Xi Jinping's global development and global security initiatives. He highlighted the key economic cooperation over the Northern Sea Route which is expected to boost cooperation between Chinese firms and Russia's Far East in terms of maritime transport. Providing the trade value between China and Russia's Far Eastern Federal District, Northeast Asia has become a prime region for cooperation between both.

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EM Daily Focus¹

Source: Energycharter.org, Martin Sylvest/Ritzau Scanpix via AP, Cybersec_EU/Twitter, AP Photo/Darko Bandic

DENMARK

Denmark Elections 2022: Election result, Campaign issues and challenge

By Sai Pranav

Elections result

On 01 November, in the early election held in Denmark Social Democrats' Mette Fredriksen won to serve as Denmark's Prime Minister for the second time. The major parties in the election were the centre-left Social Democrats, the centre-right Liberals, the conservative Christian Democrats, and the centrist Moderates. The minimum threshold for a party to be part of Denmark's parliament, Folketinget, is two per cent of votes. The left-leaning "red" bloc that Mette Fredriksen heads won 90 seats out of 179 seats, while the Social Democrats won 50 seats. The second party with a majority in the Folketinget is the Liberal Party (Venstre), headed by Jakob Ellemann-Jensen with 23 seats. Former Prime Minister Lars Lokke Rasmussen's newly

formed moderates surprisingly increased with 16 seats becoming the third largest party. One of the primary contenders, Soren Pape Poulsen's Christian Democrats, failed no seats.

Why did Denmark conduct an early election?

The minks population culling. During the COVID-19 pandemic in November 2020, Fredriksen decided that the government cull the mink population in Denmark, which resulted in her receiving backlash from the public after a report on the incident was released. The government killed over 15 million minks without legal basis due to the fear that a novel coronavirus strain might mutate and spread among humans. The mink killing affected the fur farm and Europe's largest fur industry. It was later found to be illegal, and Fredriksen was held accountable by one of her allies in the coalition government even though it was proved that she was unaware of her action's illegality. Social Liberals (Radikale Venstre) party's leader Sofie Carsten Nielsen, one of

¹EM Daily Focus is published every evening by the NIAS Europe Monitor team on the day-to-day contemporary developments. Visit <https://globalpolitics.in/europe/> to read it every day.

Fredriksen's allies, threatened to withdraw from the coalition unless she holds early snap elections, following the report on minks culling. The election was supposed to take place on June 2023. After the Social Liberal party's compulsion, it was shifted to 01 November 2022. She was also criticized for having a centralized authority in her tenure.

Four campaign issues

First, addressing climate issues. The voters are mainly concerned about climate change over other issues. The left had promised to introduce biodiversity law and a carbon tax on agriculture. On 30 October, Prime Minister Fredriksen and 50,000 people gathered for a "People's Climate March" in Copenhagen. Climate has been one of the top most discussed issues in the election.

Two, migration policy. The Social Democrats have been promoting the "zero refugees" policy, and the government plans to set up an asylum centre in Rwanda to house refugees while their applications are being processed. The restrictive migration policies were introduced following Fredriksen taking the helm of the Social Democrats in 2019, stating that the measures were for state welfare. There is no opposition to the policy, as many parties agree with it.

Three, security concerns. With the ongoing war in Ukraine, Denmark faces more security threats from Russia than in the past three decades. In September and October, the Nord Stream pipelines exploded near the Danish economic zone in the Baltic Sea. The rumoured sabotage had instilled security concerns in the hearts of the people of Denmark. Fredriksen called for a nationwide advertising campaign with the slogan "Safely through uncertain times".

Four, healthcare, inflation and energy crises. Fredriksen has been appreciated for leading Denmark through the COVID-19 pandemic, inflation, and energy price crisis without any major issues. She once again campaigned to do the same in the current scenario. To align herself with Rasmussen, she also concentrated on addressing

healthcare reforms and mental health issues, which the moderates stresses in their agenda for a coalition.

Fredriksen's Election challenge

Fredrikson's call for political unity in Denmark. Fredriksen primarily campaigned on forming a broad coalition across the traditional left-right divide, creating a politically united government to stand against the current international geopolitical uncertainty. She had given her resignation to Queen Margrethe II to dissolve the current cabinet in the hopes of forming a new administration with a broader perspective. Fredriksen had reached out to the leader of the moderate, Rasmussen, to form a coalition that could act as a bridge between the left and the right after the election results were announced. However, the process may take a lot of time due to the disagreement between the left and the right. Fredriksen's red bloc allies want to form a left-leaning coalition government instead of the broader one. There is a possibility that Fredriksen will be pressured into starting a left-leaning coalition by her allies, going against her campaign wishes.

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SLOVENIA

Slovenia Presidential Election: Four Issues

By Sai Pranav

Election results

On 13 November, Natasa Pirc Musar was elected as the first female President in Slovenia following her victory in the runoff election. She won the election with 53.86 per cent against the former Foreign Minister, Anze Logar's 46.14 per cent. On 23 October, Slovenia held the first round of the presidential election in which there was no clear victor crossing 50 per cent of votes from the people. Logar led the first round with 34 per cent, and Pirc Musar trailed second with 27 per cent of the votes. Former speaker of Slovenia's National Assembly and MEP Milan Brglez secured third place with 15 per cent. However, he did not advance to the runoff. The first round saw a voter turnout of 35 per cent, higher than the 2017 election. The voter turnout for the runoff was estimated to be 49.9 per cent.

Four campaign issues

First, prioritizing human rights. Musar as a human rights lawyer before becoming an independent candidate for Presidency, campaigned for equal rights for the LGBTQ+ community in Slovenia. She also pledged to be the voice for women at the national and international stage. She promised to work with NGOs and civic activists in the field of human rights.

Second, upholding the rule of law and democracy. Musar, like Prime Minister Robert Golob from the Freedom Movement party, aims to fix the damages done to the democracy by the ousted former Prime Minister Jansa. She intends to undo the oppression of media, corruption in the judicial system, and the breach of the rule of law by Jansa for two years along with Golob. She also wants Slovenia to uphold the rule of law and strive for democratic values.

Third, addressing the social and ecological welfare issues. Musar determined four crucial areas that Slovenia needs for

development and social cohesion. She campaigned on improving policies for health, pension reforms, climate change and climate neutrality. She also addressed the security issues concerning the ongoing Ukraine war and regional problems with Albania.

Fourth, pro-Slovenian policy. Musar assured to support Golob's foreign policies to maintain a moderate level of aid to Ukraine, backing the European Integration of the Western Balkans via talks with Serbia. Unlike the opposition, Musar does not favour collaborating with Hungary and V4 countries (the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, and Slovakia the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, and Slovakia) and Ukraine. Musar wants to focus on EU-wide issues, especially the green transition program while keeping Slovenia's internal issues first.

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THE UK

UK's new push to promote economic growth and stability: Three Takeaways

By Madhura S Mahesh

On 17 November, the UK Treasury Chancellor Jeremy Hunt unveiled the highly anticipated Autumn Budget. Following the controversial UK Growth Plan, which led to

the fall of the Pound to its lowest in decades and subsequently the resignation of former Prime Minister Liz Truss, this Autumn Budget was closely watched by everyone worldwide.

According to Hunt, the Autumn Statement 2022 is a reversal of the policies outlined in the UK Growth Plan. It looks to promote stability, growth, and public services of the UK economy and society. The statement outlines policies to reduce the national debt, support the Bank of England in controlling inflation and restore trust in businesses to invest more in the UK. The Autumn

Statement outlines the goal of the government to achieve its debt and spending targets in five years compared to the current target of three years.

After the announcement, the market reacted positively with no major shocks or uncertainties. While there was a fluctuation where the UK government bonds weakened, and the Pound fell by 1.1 per cent against the US Dollar (around USD 1.18), investors have praised the budget. A portfolio manager at Union Bancaire Privée Mohammed Kazmi said: "The big rally in the run-up and a relatively muted reaction today suggests this government has restored UK credibility in the eyes of the market."

This analysis traces three takeaways from the latest statement

1. Difference between the UK Growth Plan and the Autumn Statement 2022

When the UK Growth Plan was introduced, it talked about increased spending and many unexplained tax cuts, which projected a rise in national debt and projected an uncertain future for the UK economy.

Before the Statement was released, it was expected to address the fallouts of the Growth Plan and address the major concerns plaguing the UK economy. Jeremy Hunt said that if the government hopes to achieve all the targets and prioritize stability, growth, and public services, it needed to reverse the policies outlined in the Growth Plan. This was seen in the very nature of the budget, which was outlined

with increasing taxes, freezing thresholds, focusing on vulnerable communities, and cutting public spending to a large extent. The Growth Plan projected an increase of USD 72 billion in borrowings, whereas the Autumn Statement proposes an additional GBP 55 billion in tax rises and spending cuts reducing the current national debt amid growing inflation rates. It looked at increasing public spending to "boost the growth of the UK economy." On the other hand, Autumn Statement has cut public spending except for increasing the budget of the NHS by GBP 3.3 billion per year and the spending on schools by GBP 2.3 billion per year for the next two years.

2. The OBR forecasts a grim future for the UK economy

The Office of Budget Responsibility (OBR) is a fiscal watchdog which analyses the UK public finances and UK. It prepares two five-year forecasts for the economy and public finances annually which are presented alongside the November Budget Statement and Spring Statement.

The Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) on the UK economy alongside the Autumn Statement predicted a grim future for the economy. The OBR proclaimed that the economy is in danger of recession due to the falling output in Q3 2022 by 2.1 per cent total and the increase in demand for energy and cost of living over the winter. The OBR projects the inflation rates to hit 11.1 per cent in the last quarter of 2022 compared to the 8.7 per cent projected in March 2022, which will be a 41-year high. For 2023, the OBR expects the inflation to spill over and reduce to 3.8 per cent in the last quarter of 2023 and the GDP to grow by -1.4 per cent. The OBR also predicts that in the next two years, household income will fall to its lowest seen in generations and by 2024, the unemployment rate to hit 4.9 per cent. The OBR projects that the potential recession will hit the economy in 2023-2024 after which the economy will emerge from the recession in 2025.

3. Increased burden on the public

The Autumn Statement introduces a series of policies that look at raising taxes, both individual and corporate. The budget is said

to bring in GBP 55 billion in tax increases and cuts in public spending. The controversial 45 per cent additional rate of income tax paid on earnings over GBP 150,000, which was slashed in the Growth Plan, has now been revised. The income level has now reduced to GBP 125,140 from GBP 150,000, which brings in more people into the tax bracket. The Statement also proposes a freeze in income tax personal allowance, higher rate thresholds, main National Insurance, and inheritance tax thresholds for two more years till April 2028. The Autumn Statement provides the local councils in England to increase council tax up to five per cent a year from the current three per cent without a local vote. With the OBR projecting increased inflation rates and a price hike, the public, especially the middle class, will be bearing the brunt of this Autumn Budget. While the Autumn Statement proposes an increase in the minimum wage for people over 23 years to GBP 10.42 per hour from GBP 9.50 from April 2023 and also an increase in State pension and benefits to the disabled by 10.1 per cent in line with inflation for the next two years it is predicted that the public will experience a tough time with the increase in the overall cost of living. The government will be increasing the price cap on energy for a year after April 2023 but has reduced the amount from GBP 3,000 annually to GBP 2500. The Autumn Statement also includes a new 45 per cent tax on electricity generation companies and increased the windfall tax on oil profits from 25 per cent to 35 per cent till March 2028. This will lead the companies to introduce measures that will inevitably shift some of the burdens to the consumers and keep the energy prices high. The Statement also includes policies applicable from 2024 onwards, such as the new road tax to be paid by electric cars, vans, and motorcycles which will keep the pressure on household income.

To conclude, the Autumn Statement 2022 focused on stabilizing the economy before the recession hits the UK to mitigate the extent of damage to the UK economy. With the introduction of tax rises and spending cuts, the markets have reacted positively to the statement. It remains to be seen how the

government responds to public discontentment on tax increases and tackles the projected regression of the economy.

REGIONAL

EU's Cyber Defence Policy & Action Plan 2.0: Key takeaways

By Madhura S Mahesh

On 10 November, the European Commission and the High Representative introduced a Joint Communication on an EU Cyber Defence Policy. This policy aims to increase cyber defence capabilities either as an individual or with other EU members. The Commission referred to the recent cyber-attacks on energy infrastructure, the Russia-Ukraine conflict and government infrastructure and said that these incidents show the need for the EU to increase its cyber defence capabilities.

Four takeaways

First, a closer and integrated civilian and military cooperation in cyberspace. The new defence policy looks to integrate both the civilian and military cyberspace of EU members to enhance cooperation between the two and strengthen cyber defence. This is to manage and mitigate high-level cyber security threats and attacks. The policy hopes to introduce an EU Cyber Defence Coordination Centre (EUDCC) which will act as a central node of EU members' military cyberspace and help increase situational awareness within the EU defence community. An EU Cyber Commanders Conference will be launched headed by the European Defence Agency (EDA) to assist in the exchange of reliable and strategic information on cyber incidents. When it comes to civilian integration of cyberspace, the policy proposes Computer Security Incident Response Team and a Cyber Solidarity Initiative which will monitor and respond to various cyber-attacks on EU members. It will also look at a possible collaboration between cyber defence and other cyber communities at an operational level.

Second, increasing cyber resilience in the EU defence system. The armed force uses civilian infrastructures like transportation,

energy and communication to assist in their day-to-day activities. Hence it is important to strengthen these to prevent a potential cyber-attack which will affect the working of the defence sector. The High Representative will propose non-legally binding recommendations to the defence sector on enhancing member states' cyberspace. The policy outlines a Cyber Resilience Act to set similar standards for cybersecurity in hardware and software products and components. The defence policy outlines the need to map out potential risks affecting EU civilian and military cyberspace.

Third, increase investments in cyber defence technologies. To reduce dependency on other countries outside the EU, the new policy proposes investments in research and development and manufacturing of cyber defence technologies. These new investments will help to identify the current missing links and help to patch them to create new defence capabilities in line with the policy in a coordinated and measurable manner. The Commission through the European Defence Fund will be increasing investments in the development of interoperable tools for cyberspace operations like incident response, defensive operations and information warfare in EU member states. The policy advocates for investment for sustaining state-of-the-art defence capabilities which will also include keeping up-to-date with new technologies and their use in cyber defence systems. Quantum technology is a major challenge to the cyber defence capabilities of a nation, the policy outlines how investment in new disruptive technologies will help better protect the nation from attacks. Under the new policy, the Commission will be launching a Cyber Skills Academy which will train workers in cyberspace on new technologies and build up the cyberspace workforce by training more professionals in cyber security.

Fourth, addressing cyber threats with integrated approach. While the policy majorly focuses on the integration of military and civilian cyberspace of EU

members, it also proposes for EU members to collaborate with neighbours, international organisations and alliances like NATO to strengthen responses to cyber-attacks of similar nature. Established methods and responses to certain cyber-attacks faced by different EU members and their allies will help fastrack the response to potential attacks and mitigate the extent of the damage. For instance, with NATO the policy proposes for development of concepts and doctrines on cyber defence which will be compatible with the policies of NATO and the EU. The EU hopes to help Ukraine in building its cyber defence capability together with the US and other international partners to fight against any future Russian-led cyber-attack. The policy also outlines the EU's motive to prevent any external cyber-attack from affecting the EU indirectly. It hopes to achieve this by helping allied countries and immediate neighbours in building up their cyber defence capabilities through the EU Common Foreign Security Policy and Common Security and Defence Policy.

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EU's Action Plan on Military Mobility 2.0: Three takeaways

By Padmashree Anandhan

On 10 November, European Commission Vice President Josep Borrell proposed the "Action Plan on Military Mobility 2.0," as part of the security and defence package. The proposal comes as the security landscape is altering with Russian aggression. Borrell listing down the priority areas for improving Europe's military capacity, announced the UK's decision to join the "Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO) project" as part of the Action Plan.

Three takeaways

First, focus of the “Action Plan.” The initiative launched in 2017 has been revised and updated regularly by the European Council, Commission, and Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO). It evolved in terms of military requirements, infrastructure projects, logistical capabilities to lessen the reaction time. The key focus of the action plan is to improve the transport infrastructure to facilitate the movement of heavy military equipment, regularise such movement under less complex national regulations, to digitize the administering processes, and bring measures to protect such critical transport against hybrid threats.

Second, increased budget for smoother transport network. The Ukraine war has pushed the EU member states to increase their defence budget more than two per cent set by the NATO. Since 2008 financial crisis, the defence expenditures which were on a lull increased to 19.7 per cent, this changed in 2022 with EU allotting an exclusive budget of EUR 1.69 billion towards dual-use transport infrastructure project to revise the “trans-European transport network,” and simplify the customs regulations.

Third, European Defence Agency role in simplifying the cross-border movements. To ensure a faster movement of military from

the west to the east of Europe, reducing the complex border checks is necessary for Europe. The 24 EU member states and Norway in the European Defence Agency Programme and the UK in the PESCO is modelled to bring the logistical joints together and reduce the reaction time. This can be done through multi-modal transport corridor and transport nodes to enhance the connection and promote seamless military movement. The agency which provides ease of transport over surface and air, also aims to build a third cross-border movement to facilitate the maritime sector.

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War in Ukraine: Daily Updates*

By Padmashree Anandhan, Rishma Banerjee, and Sai Pranav



Source: Kremlin.ru, ISW, Tasnim News Agency, Ukrinform, Ukrinform, RFE/RL/Serhii Nuzhnenko/Reuters/The Guardian

War in Ukraine: Day 279

War on the Ground:

On 29 November, Ukraine's Ukrengro reported the power struggle since the Russian missile attacks on the energy infrastructure. As per the current report, the deficit is recorded at 30 per cent. According to Ukrainian forces, fighting in eastern Ukraine, Bakhmut has reduced despite new formations of Russian forces. There has been no "breakthrough" recorded apart from the deaths and injuries.

On 29 November, Ukraine's Ministry of Energy released a statement on Poland's government decision to send equipment to restore Ukraine's energy facilities. In a statement: "Polish companies have delivered to Ukraine more than 700 tonnes of electrical equipment and materials, including transformers, generators, power cables." The focus of Poland will be to develop electricity, especially "Rzeszow-Khmelnitskyi power line," and in terms of oil and gas to restore "Brody-Adamowo oil

pipeline."

The Moscow View: Claims by Russia

On 29 November, Russia's Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov expressed Russia's intention to cancel the "nuclear weapons talk" scheduled by the US. The Foreign Ministry spokesperson blames the US for instilling high level toxins with an intention to cause harm to Russia.

On 29 November, TASS reported on the accusation placed by Kherson Regional Governor Alexander Malkevich on Ukraine changing Kherson as its military base. He said: "They [Ukrainian troops] are taking people away, seizing homes and building fortifications, so they are actually getting ready to write Kherson off." He also accused Ukraine for restricting the residents to move to left bank of Dnipro River.

The West View: Responses from the US and Europe

* War in Ukraine section covers the everyday developments from four dimensions. First, The War on the Ground: Second, The Moscow View: Third, Claims by Russia. Third, The West View: Responses from the US and Europe. Fourth, The Global Fallouts: Implications of the Ukraine war. Visit <https://globalpolitics.in/europe/> to read them every day.

On 29 November, NATO's Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg announced its non-lethal support to Ukraine. The aid will include fuel, generators to help Ukraine sustain its power grid. Stoltenberg also appreciated the efforts of the Ukrainian forces in "pushing back" Russia. He added: "Russia is using brutal missile and drone attacks to leave Ukraine cold and dark this winter. President Putin is trying to weaponise winter. To force Ukrainians to freeze or flee....But we will continue to support Ukraine, for as long as it takes. We will not back down."

The Global Fallouts: Implications of the Ukraine war

On 29 November, Ukrinform reported on G7 leaders adoption of the Berlin Declaration. The agreement calls for investigation into war crimes occurred in Ukraine. They uniformly condemned Russian violation of the international law in terms of death of civilians, disappearing of children and attacks on energy, health infrastructures. In a statement: "With regard to the important role of victims and witnesses in the investigation of core international crimes it is crucial to address their needs and to seek justice for what they have endured."

On 29 November, China's President Xi Jinping stated that Beijing was ready to engage in a closed relationship with Russia in terms of "international energy security." He said: "China is willing to work with Russia to forge a closer energy partnership, promote clean and green energy development and jointly maintain international energy security and the stability of industry supply chains."

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War in Ukraine: Day 278

War on the Ground:

On 28 November, Kherson Regional Council spokesperson reported on Russian capturing of Velyki Kopani in Kherson. In the report, although Russia has moved from the left to the right bank in Kherson, the ammunition and equipment are observed to be placed close for launching attacks into Ukraine. Kopani said: "A whole cluster of their Grad MLRS in the territory of the unfinished market was hit."

The Moscow View: Claims by Russia

On 28 November, TASS reported on the damage of 2000 civilian infrastructures in the DPR due to Ukrainian shelling. According to DPR mission to the Joint Control and Coordination Center on Ukraine's War Crimes: "Damage has been caused to 8,590 residential buildings, 1,997 civilian infrastructure sites, including 104 health institutions, 397 educational establishments, 751 social facilities, 55 critical infrastructure sites, 691 electricity, water, heat and gas supply facilities and 931 transport vehicles."

On 28 November, TASS reported on the statement from Russia's Rosenergoatom nuclear power plant operator Chief Executive on the restoration of heat supplies to Energodar. This was after two reactors in the Zaporozhye nuclear power plant were switched to transfer heat to supply heat to city.

The West View: Responses from the US and Europe

On 28 November, Foreign Ministers of Estonia, Finland, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, and Sweden signed an agreement to support Ukraine politically, militarily, and its sovereignty. The Ministers assured to bring back "territorial integrity," and Minister of Norway and Baltic assured to continue their support in all sectors to Ukraine. Apart from this they also discussed to limit the Schengen and national visas given to Russians in the EU.

On 28 November, ISW in its assessment stated that the attacks on the residential in the Kherson will continue after it observed the positions of the Russian forces. The attempt is seen to counter Ukraine's counter offensive. The Guardian also reported on the widespread trend in Russian attacks to cause casualties.

The Global Fallouts: Implications of the Ukraine war

On 28 November, Ukrinform reported on UNHCR data on the Ukrainian refugees. As per the report, 4.75 million refugees have registered for temporary protection under the schemes given by Europe. The total count has reached to 4,751,065 till now.

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War in Ukraine: Day 276 & 277

War on the Ground:

On 26 November, Ukrinform reported on Ukraine, Poland, and Lithuania in support of Ukraine to join NATO signed an agreement to improve the process and support negotiations for Ukraine's accession to the EU. Ukrainian Prime Minister Denys Shmyhal said: "We discussed current issues and challenges and also signed a joint statement in which we agreed on a number of our positions." The discussion took place in the Lublin triangle format which also focused on strengthening military, humanitarian aid, and boosting the reconstruction in Ukraine.

On 26 November, Ukraine's President

Volodymyr Zelenskyy in his daily address spoke on the creation of a system to reduce the Russian aggression, break down the consequences, ensure a "long-term security." The address highlights the need for stabilizing the food security, launch of a new humanitarian initiative, and the support from 20 international countries in the food security summit.

On 27 November, Ukraine's Entrepreneurship and Export Promotion Office reported on the increase in the Ukraine's exports by 63 per cent between January and October 2022. Ukraine's exports were sent to the central and eastern Europe which included Poland and Romania, Hungary, Slovakia, Bulgaria. Although the exports increased in central and eastern, CIS countries recorded a reduction in the exports from Ukraine. The same was observed in Egypt and the US, with a decrease of 55 and 67 per cent.

The Moscow View: Claims by Russia

On 26 November, Russian President Vladimir Putin in his address at the Rostec corporation's 15th anniversary. He highlighted the operating capacity of the industrial plants in Moscow, Ural, Siberian and the Far East. According to Putin running of the defence and civilian industries was equally important to support the enterprises and the people.

On 27 November, TASS reported on Russian forces claim on destruction of "six command posts" in the Kherson and Kharkiv areas. The attacks extended to DPR as confirmed by the Russian Defence Ministry Spokesman Igor Konashenkov. Apart from the command posts, 62 artillery units, military hardware in 137 zones were reported to be destroyed. According to Konashenkov: "In the Donetsk area, counterattacks by the Ukrainian armed forces in the areas of Soledar, Opytnoye, Kurdyumovka and Mayorsk settlements were repelled as a result of the Russian troops' fire and resolute action."

The West View: Responses from the US and Europe

On 25 November, Poland's Ministry of Defence reported on the participation of 2000 allied troops in the "Tumak 22"

exercise. This took place in the northern border of Poland shared with Belarus and Russia. The units involved in the exercise includes interoperability troops from the UK, the US, Romania, and Croatia. During the exercise, the units conducted drills using many combat equipment's, logistic support, and counteroffensive.

On 25 November, The New York Times reported on the Pentagon's efforts on setting up a repair unit for Ukraine's overused weapons. It reported that the US and its allies supplied weapons such as high-tech canons and combat had to removed from the ground due to repairs, therefore the repair unit in Poland would support Ukraine in maintaining the military capabilities. According to a military analyst in the Foreign Policy Research Institute: "It's not altogether surprising that there are maintenance issues with these weapons...They didn't get a full training package for them and then were thrown into the fight, so you are going to get a lot of wear and tear."

On 26 November, ISW, a US based think tank observed that the operations in the frontline areas such as Svatove, Bakhmut, and Vuhledar of the war had slowed down due to bad weather. It predicted the temperature to reduce further to "near-to-below" freeze between 28 November and 04 December. In a statement: "The overall pace of operations in Ukraine is likely to increase in the upcoming weeks as the ground freezes throughout the theatre."

The Global Fallouts: Implications of the Ukraine war

On 26 November, Robert Lansing Institute a US based think tank reported that Putin's return from the CSTO summit might trigger to push Belarus to involve in the sending of troops into Ukraine. As per the report: "...an unsuccessful or successful attempt on Aleksandr Lukashenko, fabricated 'evidence' will be presented of the 'involvement of Ukraine and Poland under the leadership of NATO intelligence."

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War in Ukraine: Day 275

War on the Ground:

On 25 November, Ukraine's Energy Minister Herman Galushchenko in a call with Azerbaijan's Energy Minister Parviz Shahbazov discussing Ukraine's energy shortage due to Russian missile attacks. On 23 November, Russia shelled Ukraine's energy infrastructure damaging it extensively. Upon which, Ukraine requested Azerbaijan to help restore its energy infrastructure and supply the required electrical equipment.

On 25 November, Ukraine's State Ecological Inspection's Acting Head Ihor Zubovych stated at a press conference that Russia has caused UAH 1.387 trillion worth of damage to Ukraine's environment. Zubovych estimated that UAH 927.6 billion worth of atmospheric damage, UAH 443.7 billion worth of land damage by pollution and contamination and UAH 15.7 billion of water bodies damage. He said that the estimated figures were not final and that the State Ecological Inspection is updating its data as it receives new ones.

On 25 November, Kyiv City Military Administration reported in its Telegram that

Kyiv had equipped itself with fortification and was strengthening its defensive capabilities. Accommodation and shelter for Defence Forces' officials were also being arranged in the city.

On 25 November, Ukraine's Prime Minister Denys Shmyhal met with the UK's Foreign Affairs Minister James Cleverley in Kyiv to discuss the UK's solidarity with Ukraine. The UK had allocated GBP five million to restore and support Ukraine's energy sector. Shmyhal urged the UK to recognize Russia as a sponsor of terrorism and support the establishment of a special tribunal to make Russia pay for its war crimes in Ukraine.

The Moscow View: Claims by Russia

On 25 November, Russia's Deputy Foreign Minister Oleg Syromolotov considers the European Parliament's resolution on recognizing Russia as a state sponsor of terrorism as Russophobic and not representing the real situation. He criticized the West for focusing on an anti-Russian informational and political campaign instead of tackling international terrorism. Smyromolotov said: "If certain countries or the European Parliament want to find real terrorists, we suggest they look more closely at and consider more thoroughly what has recently happened in the Baltic and the Black Sea rather than take part in a parade of dummy resolutions." He added that Russia has always been an anti-terrorist state and the west has always tried to pin it as a terrorist one.

The West View: Responses from the US and Europe

On 25 November, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen had a telephone conversation with Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy. They discussed Russia's war crime accountability in its aggression in Ukraine and Ukraine's energy needs. Ursula von der Leyen also mentioned the EU's aid through the rescEU program. The EU will provide humanitarian consisting of medium-sized transformers and autotransformers from Lithuania and Latvia and heavy generators from Romania.

On 25 November, Norway's government will provide NOK 150 million to support the EU's Military Assistance Mission to train Ukrainian soldiers. The EU aims to train 15,000 soldiers and Norway funds the training mission through the European Peace Facility (EPF). Norway also contributed to Estonia's humanitarian aid to Ukraine.

On 25 November, the US Embassy in Kyiv reported in a Facebook post that the US Agency for International Development provided 50 additional generators to Ukraine's State Service for Special Communication and Information Protection. More than 1000 generators were recorded to be given to Ukraine by USAID. The generators are part of the humanitarian assistance provided to Ukrainians to help them through the energy shortage caused due to destruction of energy infrastructure by Russian missile strikes.

The Global Fallout: Implications of the Ukraine war

On 25 November, International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)'s Director General Rafael Mariano Grossi said that Ukraine has four operational nuclear power plants connected to the national grid again. Following the Russian missile strikes, Ukraine's nuclear power plants were disconnected from the electrical grid due to the damage it had taken. After the inspections from IAEA's mission, Grossi said that external power connections to Zaporizhzhia, Rivne, South Ukraine, Khmelnytsky and Chornobyl were restored.

On 25 November, China's Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning said that China was monitoring Ukraine's humanitarian situation and energy infrastructure damages. Ning said: "We believe that cooling the situation through dialogue and negotiations is the first priority and the main way to solve the problems." China believes that the international community can de-escalate the war in Ukraine.

War in Ukraine: Day 274 War on the Ground:

On 24 November, Dnipropetrovsk Oblast's Governor Valentyn Reznichenko reported in

a Telegram post that the region suffered from a Russian heavy artillery attack. More than 30 shells were directed at the Marganets community. 50 per cent of residents suffer electricity shortages in the region and a warning for power outages was announced to reduce the load on energy infrastructures.

On 24 November, Ukraine's Finance Minister Serhiy Marchenko and Eastern Europe's World Bank Regional Director Arup Banerjee signed an agreement on providing USD 4.5 billion grant to Ukraine. The US will provide the USD 4.5 billion grant via the World Bank to finance the "Supporting public expenditures to ensure Ukraine's sustainable public administration" Project's framework. Marchenko said, "...grant funds are another significant contribution to the financing of urgent needs for our country. This will allow us to continue to ensure the payment of wages, social and pension payments, and assistance for internally displaced persons in the conditions of the fight against the aggressor." The Trust Fund of many donors will be used to fund the USD 4.5 billion.

The Moscow View: Claims by Russia

On 24 November, TASS reported that following an operational meeting in Genichensk in the Kherson region, Russia's Investigative Committee noted 25 countries which supplied arms to Ukraine. The recorded evidence showed that out of the 25 Western countries 21 were NATO members. The weapons list was also recorded. The weapons that Ukraine received included 122-millimetre MLRS rocket, 125-millimetre tank shells, 60-millimetre and 120-millimetre mortar rounds, howitzers, grenade launchers, UAVs, helicopters, tanks, NLAW anti-tank missiles, Javelin missile systems, their relevant ammunition and other equipment.

The West View: Responses from the US and Europe

On 23 November, the US Department of Defence (DoD) announced allocating USD 400 million military aid package from the Presidential Drawdown of security assistance to address Ukraine's security and

defence requirements. The DoD has authorized the drawdown of its inventorial equipment 26 times during Biden's administration. The package will include ammunition for NASAMS and HIMARS missile systems, heavy machine guns, artillery rounds, anti-radiation missiles, military vehicles, equipment and generators. The package looks to strengthen Ukraine's air defence capabilities.

On 24 November, Poland's National Defence Minister Mariusz Blaszczak reported in a tweet that he has requested Germany to transfer the promised deployment of Patriot batteries in Poland, to Ukraine. The batteries will be deployed on Ukraine's western border to protect the people and safeguard Poland's eastern border.

On 23 November, Lithuania's government guaranteed EUR 12.97 million in aid to Ukraine through the European Commission's macro-financial assistance. The EU assistance will support Ukraine in stabilizing its economy, strengthening resilience and donating to its public debt sustainability.

The Global Fallouts: Implications of the Ukraine war

On 23 November, IMF's mission led by Gavin Gray held a virtual meeting with Ukrainian officials to discuss Ukraine's economic programs and policies. IMF approved a four-month Program Monitoring with Board Involvement (PMB) to support Ukraine's economic program. Gray stated: "Economic activity is expected to stabilize in 2023, with growth at one per cent under the baseline scenario, following a 33 per cent contraction this year. Inflation is projected to remain elevated at around 25 per cent on average. With the war ongoing, Ukraine will continue to require substantial external financing to ensure adequate resources for the core functions of the state while preserving economic stability."

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War in Ukraine: Day 273

War on the Ground:

On 23 November, Russia launched missiles at critical infrastructure in Kyiv, Lviv, and Vyshhorod. In Kyiv, the attack damaged energy infrastructure, a two-storey building, and killed three people and injured six. As a result of the attack, Kyiv does not have water and connection to power and mobile communication is damaged. In Lviv, the attack cut off the power supply to the entire city and disrupted the water supply. In Vyshhorod, the attack hit a residential building, killing one and many injured.

On the same day, Russia shelled Kupiansk in Kharkiv province killing two and injuring one. The Russian forces used Uragan multiple-launch rocket systems to launch surface-to-air missiles which hit a nine-story building, a polyclinic and a school. Other districts in Kharkiv like Dvorichna and Velyki Khutory where houses and buildings were damaged by Russian attacks.

On 23 November, Kyiv Mayor Vitali Klitschko said that the city will be hit with the “worst winter since WWII.” Klitschko said that the extensive damage caused to Kyiv’s energy infrastructure by Russia has led to frequent power cuts which have worsened the situation. He said that Russia is trying to force citizens out of Kyiv and added that “but that won’t happen. My impression is that people will only get angrier, and more determined. We will not die or flee as Putin wants.”

The Moscow View:

Claims by Russia

On 23 November, Rosatom CEO Alexey Likhachev, IAEA Director General Rafael Grossi, and Chief of Russia’s State Atomic Energy Corporation Alexander Trembitski met in Istanbul to discuss the shelling of the Zaporizhzhya NPP. According to Rosatom’s statement, the three chiefs discussed IAEA’s prompt response to the shelling, its safety and IAEA’s mission at the Zaporizhzhya NPP. Rosatom added: “They had a substantive and candid conversation.”

On 23 November, Russia spokesperson Vladimir Rogov reported on a troop movement near Orekhov and Gulyaipole in Zaporizhzhya Region. He estimates that Ukraine wants to control the Zaporizhzhya nuclear power plant but is delaying it due to weather conditions. Rogov added that Ukraine is redeploying around 40,000 troops from Kherson to Zaporizhzhya which includes two Ukrainian armed forces’ brigades, armored vehicles and artillery pieces.

On 23 November, Russian Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Maria Zakharova urged the UN Secretariat not to “hide behind common phrases” and properly assess the executions of Russian Prisoners of War (POW). This was in relation to the UN Secretary-General Deputy Spokesman Farhan Haq’s comment on the video showing the execution of Russian POWs where he said that they are concerned about the incident. Zakharova asked the UN Secretariat to: “..either stating once and for all that, they stand for all good things and oppose all bad things, or adopt an unbiased and impartial approach to various developments based on their responsibilities and mandates.”

The West View:

Responses from the US and Europe

On 23 November, Moldova experienced a blackout as a result of Russia’s missile strikes in Ukraine. After Russia struck key energy infrastructure in Kyiv, Moldovan Deputy Prime Minister Andrei Spinu tweeted that half of Moldova is without power. This is because both Moldova and Ukraine are connected to a European grid which automatically cuts power to the connection

between Romania and Moldova if Ukraine is hit to protect the grid. Moldovan President Maia Sandusaod that the electricity will be restored and that Russian attacks had "left Moldova in the dark." After the blackout, power was restored in Moldova's capital Chisinau within a few hours.

On 23 November, UK's Defence Secretary Ben Wallace announced that the UK will be providing Ukraine with three British Military Sea Kings. Along with the former Sea Kings, Wallace announced that the UK will be sending additional 10,000 rounds of ammunition to Ukraine. This comes after Ukrainian troops were trained in the UK to operate and maintain the helicopter. The helicopter will be used for search and rescue missions conducted by Ukrainian forces.

On 23 November, the Croatian President objected to the request of the country's defence minister to "approve" the bearing of the armed forces in Croatia and said that a decision will be made regarding the same. A spokesperson for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine said that the Ukrainian side is presently in talks with the Croatian government to get a "green light" on Croatia's participation in the EU training mission. The spokesperson added that the president is "considering" options to help Ukraine which allow either Ukrainian members to revive training in Croatia or in a third country.

On 23 November, in a press release, the European Parliament named Russia a "state sponsor" of terrorism and said that the war in Ukraine amounts to "acts of terror" and are considered "war crimes". The designation comes as a "symbolic" signal to Russia and would push other member countries to adopt the designation to make the way for prosecution of their aggression. Officials from other states consider the move as a weak one and said that Russia could be negligent of the west's continued help to Ukraine in humanitarian aid.

The Global Fallouts: Implications of the Ukraine war

On 23 November, IAEA Director General Rafael Grossi met with Rosatom CEO Alexey Likhachev and Chief of Russia's State Atomic

Energy Corporation Alexander Trembitsk in Istanbul. The three reportedly discussed the establishment of a nuclear safety and security protection zone around the Zaporizhzhya NPP. The three chiefs also discussed the operational safety of the Zaporizhzhya NPP.

On 23 November, Reuters reported that the price of oil per barrel fell by three per cent amid G7 discussions on a price cap. The price for Brent Crude Oil for January deliveries dropped by USD 2.95 to USD 85.41. Regarding the G7 price cap, Reuters reported that the price of Russian seaborne oil may be capped at around USD 65-70 per barrel which is above trading. Currently, Urals crude oil is trading around USD 62-68 depending on the region. Reuters estimates that with the production cost of Russian oil being around USD 20, the proposed price cap will still allow Russia to profit from its oil exports and keep up the supply of oil to the global market.

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War in Ukraine: Day 272

War on the Ground:

On 22 November, Ukraine’s Economy Minister and First Deputy Prime Minister, Yulia Svyridenko, announced sanctions on 3000 Russians linked to its military industry at the Interdepartmental Working Group (IWG) meeting on the State Sanctions Policy. The sanctions are placed on 3000 individuals and legal entities of the Russian military sector and its suppliers. The sanctions would have to be approved by the National Security and Defence Council and Ukraine’s President, Volodymyr Zelenskyy, to be implemented. On 19 October, Ukraine sanctioned 2,507 individuals and 1,374 legal entities, including Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, founder of the Wagner mercenary group, Yevgeny Prigozhin, and other Russian oligarchs.

On 22 November, Ukraine’s Energy Minister, Herman Galushchenko, met virtually with France’s Energy Transition Minister, Agnes Panier-Runachet. Galushchenko thanked Panier-Runachet for France’s humanitarian aid by supplying 73 tons of materials and equipment to Ukraine’s energy sector. France pledged to help Ukraine with its energy restoration following Russia’s shelling of Ukraine’s critical energy infrastructures. Galushchenko and Panier-Runachet emphasized the need to demilitarize and de-occupation of the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant and IAEA’s monitoring mission. Both Energy Ministers agreed on sending representatives from energy companies from France to provide operational assistance to Ukraine’s energy sector.

The Moscow View:

Claims by Russia

On 22 November, TASS reported on Gazprom’s comments holding Europe responsible for destabilizing the global LNG market. The European energy demand also led suppliers to redirect LNG export to Europe, eroding Asia of its LNG supply. Gazprom also criticized the US for failing to increase shale gas production during the 2022 energy crisis, missing a favourable market situation.

On 21 November, Russia’s embassy in Washington stated that the US has been enabling neo-Nazis in Ukraine following the US Ambassador-at-Large for Global Criminal Justice, Beth Van Schaack’s response to the video of the execution of Russian prisoners of war by the Ukrainian troops. Van Schaack said: “when we’re looking at the sheer scale of criminality exhibited by Russian forces, it’s enormous compared to the allegations that we have seen against Ukrainian forces.”

The West View:

Responses from the US and Europe

On 22 November, the European Commission President, Ursula von der Leyen, announced in her tweet that the Commission would allocate EUR 2.5 billion to Ukraine for repairs and fast recovery from the Russian shelling. The funds are also provided for the reconstruction of Ukraine after the war. The Commission has pledged EUR 18 billion to be provided to Ukraine for 2023, with the funds distributed regularly.

On 22 November, the UK’s Defence Ministry in its intelligence update reported that Russia’s Black Sea Fleet is concerned about its amphibious landing ship flotilla following an attack on an oil terminal in Novorossiysk port, near the fleet’s base. The fleet is responsible for supplying materials and resources to Russian soldiers in Crimea since the Kerch Bridge was damaged. The attack on the Novorossiysk port will undermine Russia’s already declining maritime influence in the Black Sea.

On 21 November, Reuters reported that the US army had increased its pace in acquiring weapons following the depletion of arms by supplying them to Ukraine. The defence contract backlogs are looked into quickly to

restock the US weaponry. The US had provided Ukraine with weapons worth USD 17.9 billion since the start of the war on 24 February. The US Army has spent USD 2.6 billion to replenish the US arms supply by using the special Presidential Drawdown Authority (PDA), which allows quick arms transfer without the consent of Congress in times of emergency. Lockheed Martin group received USD 477 million contract to restock the US weaponry.

On 21 November, Telegraph.co.uk the UK provided Ukraine with its advanced model of the laser-guided Brimstone missile. The Royal Air Force supplied Brimstone 2 missile to the Ukrainian air force to counterattack Russian troops. The new Brimstone missiles exceed the target range better than the previous model. The Brimstone 2 costs around GBP 175 hundred and has the capability to hit moving vehicles. It can also select a particular target that can be programmed into the equipment. It uses laser technology to hit the target successfully.

The Global Fallouts: Implications of the Ukraine war

On 22 November, in his address at a plenary session of the State Duma, Cuba's President, Miguel Diaz-Canel, condemned the West's sanctions against Russia. During his visit to Moscow, Diaz-Canel said that the US and NATO's aggressive policies were responsible for the war in Ukraine. He condemned the role of sanctions in escalating the Ukrainian war and said that he favoured the negotiated solution to the war.

On 22 November, Japan's government approved extending Emergency Grant Aid of USD 2.57 million to help Ukraine's electrical needs through winter. The aid will be implemented through the Office of the UNHCR. Generators and solar lanterns will be provided to Ukraine through aid.

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War in Ukraine: Day 271

War on the Ground:

On 21 November, The Operational information of the Ukraine's General Staff of the Armed Forces reported on deterring the Russian attacks in Bakhmut, Bilogorivka, Kurdyumivka, Maryinka, Novomykhailivka, Pervomaiske, Pidhorodne, Spirne, Stelmakhivka and Yakovlivka settlements of the Donetsk region. Two missile strikes were launched in more than 60 attacks from rocket salvo systems. The Ukraine defence forces had struck Russia six times, three in the areas where the occupiers are concentrated and three in the positions of his anti-aircraft missile systems, units of missile troops and artillery of the defence forces hit two control points, an ammunition warehouse, five areas of concentration of personnel, weapons and military equipment and two other important Russia's objects.

On 21 November, The Ministry of Reintegration stated that the flow of humanitarian goods to the Kherson region

continues. Kherson region has received hygiene kits, blankets, drinking water, sets of children's clothes and generators, and more than 80 tons of aid till now from the international. Ukrainian police and prosecutors identified four places in Kherson where they suspect Russian forces tortured people before the troops abandoned the city. The findings are based on documents signed by the Russian forces that occupied Kherson soon after invading Ukraine in February till pulling out this month.

The Moscow View: Claims by Russia

On 21 November, Russian Aerospace Forces received a batch of Su-30SM2 and Yak-130 combat training aircraft. According to the Cabinet Ministers, another batch will be handed over before the end of 2022. The Irkutsk Aviation Plant of the United Aircraft Corporation has been manufactured and handed over to the Russian Ministry of Defence. In February it was reported that Su-30MS2 fighters would be able to control guided unmanned aerial vehicles, in January it became known that the Baltic Fleet's mixed naval aviation regiment received four Su-30SM2 fighters.

The West View: Responses from the US and Europe

On 21 November, in the NATO Parliamentary assembly held in Madrid, Spain's Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez announced the deployment of Spanish police in Ukraine to help in the investigation of war crimes. The two countries have established the terms and of cooperation and specified the areas of deployment. In the investigation Spanish officers will work along Ukrainian investigators to collect evidence to prove Russia's involvement in war crimes.

On 21 November, in an interview Italy's Defence Minister Guido Crosetto stated government's request to the parliament to approve a new law on military and civilian supplies to Ukraine throughout 2023. Through the new law the government can send aid without the parliament's authorisation. The defence minister proposed to renew till the end of 2023.

On 21 November, Belarusian President Aleksandr Lukashenko, in a meet with the Udmurt Republic, Head Aleksandr Brechalov in Minsk flagged the missile strike in Poland as a false. He said that Belarus and Russia will hold strong against the pressure from the 'West,' military and economically.

On 21 November, *TRTWorld* reported that Europe had stockpiled diesel ahead of February 2023 ban. Russia is still Europe's largest supplier despite the EU reducing its reliance on Russian fuel by 50 per cent following the Ukraine war. The EU will ban Russian oil product imports on 05 February, followed by a ban on Russian crude taking effect in December. Although Europe's reliance on the Russian fuel has fallen from to 50 per cent before invasion, Russia is still the continent's largest diesel supplier.

On 21 November, Norway signed an agreement to assist Ukraine with gas procurement. Norwegian Finance Minister Trygve Slagsvold Vedum as signed an agreement to provide funding of NOK two billion to enable Ukraine to purchase natural gas during the coming winter. The funding will be channelled through the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD). This is in bid to stop Russia's leverage of energy which it has been using on the rest of Europe. This allocation of NOK 2 billion earmarked for gas procurement is part of the NOK 10 billion aid announced by the Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Store in July.

The Global Fallout: Implications of the Ukraine war

On 20 November, *RT* reported that China's General Administration of Customs reported that Russian shipments of gas and oil grew drastically over January-October of this year compared to the same period in 2021. Liquefied natural gas (LNG) deliveries jumped by 32 per cent in annual terms, to 4.98 million tons. The increase was 157 per cent and exceeded USD 5.3 billion. Russia is currently China's fourth-largest LNG supplier after Australia, Qatar, and Malaysia. The value of pipeline gas flow from Russia in January-October 2022 soared by 182 per cent compared to the same period in 2021, to USD 3.1 billion. Oil imports from Russia over this period, rising by also surged about

9.5 per cent to 71.97 million tons.

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War in Ukraine: Day 269 & 270

War on the Ground:

On 20 November, Ukraine's General Staff of the Armed Forces reported in a post that Russia had attacked with one aerial and four missile strikes. The report stated that the Russian army had used multiple launch rocket systems 59 times. Shelling in Sviatohirsk and Kramatorsk resulted in attacks on civilian infrastructures, breaching the international humanitarian law and the

conventional law of warfare. In Bryansk, Kursk, Belgorod and Kharkiv regions, the Russian and Belarus soldiers are trying to enter Ukraine from their respective borders.

On 19 November, In his speech at Halifax International Security Forum, Ukraine's Head of the President's Office, Andriy Yermak, said that Ukraine had begun developing the Joint Declaration on the Ukrainian Air Shield with its allies. The declaration foresees Ukraine's air security guarantee with a complex multi-level-anti-aircraft and anti-missile defence system. It will also provide aerial defence to Europe.

On 19 November, Ukraine's Security Service (SBU) discovered 11 people behind the Zaporizhzhia region referendum. They organized an illegal referendum in the region and invited people to participate. The group has also been sharing information on local residents, which they had collected during the voting, to Russia. They have been found to have been working for Russia.

On 19 November, in an interview, Ukraine's Deputy Defence Minister, Volodymyr Havrylov, predicted that Ukrainian Armed Forces would recapture Crimea by the end of 2022 and end of the war by spring 2023. He also said that there was a low possibility of nuclear warfare erupting. According to him, the war will end only if Russia withdraws from the Crimean peninsula and other parts of Ukraine.

The Moscow View: Claims by Russia

On 19 November, TASS reported that Ukraine had attacked the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant for the first time since September. 12 missile strikes were reported inside the powerplant targeting the cooling system, spent nuclear fuel storage and checkpoint two. No casualties were reported. However, shelling resulting in nuclear contamination was forewarned.

On 19 November, Russia's First Deputy Permanent Representative to the UN drew the attention of the UN Security Council and General Assembly by appealing to the UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres via letter on Ukrainian Armed Forces' (UAF)

illtreatment of Russian prisoners of war. A video has been circulated on Ukraine killing Russian PoWs in torturous ways and violating international humanitarian law. He appealed to the UN to investigate the matter. Russia's Investigative Committee launched a criminal case over the mass execution of PoWs by Ukraine.

On 20 November, Russia's Ministry of Defence reported that Aerospace Forces (VKS) destroyed the workshop of the Motor Sich, an operation for assembling engines for aircraft of the Ukrainian Air Force. The Ministry also reported that Russian troops has successfully stopped the counterattack in the Southern Donetsk region. 50 Ukrainian soldiers were killed, two MT-LB armoured personnel carriers, two armoured vehicles and three pickup trucks were also destroyed.

The West View: Responses from the US and Europe

On 19 November, Sweden provided military aid worth SEK three billion to Ukraine, higher than the last eight packages combined. The package included air defence systems, vehicles, ammo and equipment. Sweden also provided an additional SEK 760 million package as humanitarian aid to help Ukraine and Moldova get through winter.

On 19 November, Estonia sent 27 buses and 13 generators to Ukraine as humanitarian aid. The bus package was set up by Foreign Affairs, Economic Affairs, Communication and the Transport Board. Estonia's Lion Club provided 13 generators to help schools and children's organization which operate in underground shelters during Russian attacks.

On 20 November, the UK's Prime Minister, Rishi Sunak, visited Kyiv for the first time since he took up the Office. He pledged GBP 50 million in defence aid to Ukraine including anti-aircraft guns, radars and anti-drone electronic warfare capabilities. He also promised that the UK had allocated GBP 12 million for the World Food Programme and GBP 4 million for the International Organization for Migration.

The Global Fallouts: Implications of the Ukraine war

On 20 November, *Reuters* reported Iran agreed with Russia to begin producing unmanned weaponized aircraft in Russia. Russia and Iran are increasing their pace transferring designs and key components to begin the manufacturing process within three months.

On 19 November, The Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Economic Leaders' Meeting released a statement in its declaration in Bangkok condemning Russia for invading Ukraine. It stated that the war has caused human suffering, constraints in global economic growth, rising inflation, disrupting supply chains, increasing food and energy insecurity and elevating financial stability risks. Some of the members had other views of the war. The declaration noted that APEC was not a forum to solve security issues. They acknowledged security issues impacting the global economy.

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War in Ukraine: Day 268

War on the Ground:

On 18 November, Ukraine's Prime Minister, Denys Shmyhal, spoke at the government meeting discussing financial aid to Ukraine. In his speech, he said that the European Commission's Executive Vice-President, Valdis Dombrovskis, had announced that the EU has committed to providing EUR 2.5 billion in November and 500 million in December as financial aid to Ukraine during his visit to Kyiv. The US, Canada and the EU have pledged financial aid to Ukraine next year. Ukraine has also requested USD 4.5 billion in grants from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development and International Development Association for its recovery from the war.

On 18 November, in an interview, Ukraine's Head of the State Emergency Service (SES), Serhiy Kurk, said that Ukraine had increased its demining in the retaken Kherson and Mykolaiv region. More than 8000 square kilometres were demined, most belonging to the Kherson region. The pyrotechnic units of the SES worked with military-civilian administrations to remove 30 per cent of mines from the de-occupied Kherson and Mykolaiv regions. The SES has procured life support systems and provisions for the citizens in the regions and has created humanitarian hubs where aid distribution takes place in the Kherson region.

On 18 November, Ukraine's Deputy Head of the President's Office, Kyrylo Tymoshenko, announced the start of "Points of Invincibility" initiative to operation in the

centre of retaken Kherson city. The initiative implemented by the President's Office and the SES provides internet, extension cords for charging phones, power banks, and heating. Two tents were deployed for the people to access the service, as Kherson does not have an electricity supply. Tables, chairs, sunbeds for children and the elderly, water, snacks, tea, coffee and biscuits were also available inside the tents. Generators for heating and electricity, water, food and cellular network were provided in the points of invincibility. Tymoshenko said that the points of invincibility will be open all the time except for curfews and will be accessible to other parts of the de-occupied Kherson region soon.

The Moscow View: Claims by Russia

On 18 November, *RT* reported that Russia's Defence Ministry had claimed that it had destroyed a missile manufacturing facility and other key targets in Ukraine. Long-range precision weapons were used to strike Ukraine's military control system, military-industrial complex and associated fuel and energy facilities. The strike damaged an ammo depot of western weapons and disrupted the Ukrainian troop's logistics. The air strikes on energy infrastructure have rendered Ukrainian gas firms like Naftogaz unable to operate and resulted in blackouts.

On 16 November, Russia's spokesperson, Vladimir Dzhubarov, warned about attending the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) meeting in Warsaw from 24 to 26 November for Russian officials being denied visas to Poland. In response, Poland said that denying Russian officials visas would breach its solidarity with Ukraine.

On 18 November, Russia's Foreign Ministry spokesperson, Maria Zakharova, stated: "We demand that international organisations condemn and thoroughly investigate this shocking crime. No atrocity committed by Ukrainian military units will remain unpunished. All those guilty and their accomplices will be identified and punished accordingly. Nobody will escape retribution." She urged international communities to condemn Ukraine for ruthlessly shooting

detained prisoners of war and for their cruel treatment. A video showing Ukrainian soldiers torturing Russian prisoners is being circulated, showing the true nature of the Ukrainian neo-Nazis violating the 1949 Geneva Convention, According to Zakharova.

The West View: Responses from the US and Europe

On 18 November, the Swedish security service was working intensely on the investigation regarding the detonation at the Nord Stream 1 and 2 pipelines. This investigation showed that the pipelines have been subject to gross sabotage. These crime scene investigations were carried out in the Baltic Sea, and the extensive damage caused by the detonation of these pipelines has been thoroughly documented. Several foreign items have been seized, and the explosive residue was identified on a few seized and analysed foreign items. The investigation is being conducted by the Swedish Security Service and is headed by a National Security Unit prosecutor. Our Service is being assisted in this case by several agencies including, among others, the Swedish Coast Guard, the Swedish Armed Forces and the Swedish police Authority.

On 18 November, Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban will not support the EU aid plan to Ukraine, with billions in budget assistance next year, blocking a major aid package the EU unveiled last week. At a conference in Budapest, Orban said while Hungary condemns Russia's aggression and supports the Ukrainian people, he is not willing to put Ukraine's interests before those of his country. The aid plan of EUR 18 billion to Ukraine next year in regular payments to help keep energy and health care facilities running as well as to fund salaries and pension schemes. Orban recommended that the EU's 27 members determine how much they are willing to provide to Ukraine and distribute the sum in a proportional and fair way among themselves without jointly our loans to make the payments. The commission intends to borrow the money on capital markets using the combined weight of the 27 countries to secure more favourable terms.

On 18 November, The Cabinet of Ministers of

Ukraine endorsed an order to amend amendments to the agreement between the Government of Ukraine and the Government of the Republic of Poland. Raising concessional loans of EUR 160 million for investment projects in Ukraine, in particular, the loan amount increased from EUR 60 million to EUR 160 million. The deadline was extended from December 31, 2022, to December 31, 2024. The companies that are investing in Ukraine are Ukravtodor, the State Customs Service and the Administration of the State Border Guard service.

On 18 November, *Deutsche Welle* reported that Russia's commercial airline industry has been facing an impending collapse. The Russian airlines use commercial aircraft that the West supplied. The international sanctions on Russia's aviation sectors made foreign airlines and manufacturers cut ties with it. Boeing and Airbus, major aircraft manufacturers stopped supplying aircraft and spare parts to Russia. Experts suspect that Russia has been using existing parts, cannibalism of planes and loopholes around the sanctions to maintain its aviation industry. However, unlike Iran, which had older aircraft models, Russia has modern ones requiring regular updates and advanced semiconductors. According to experts, sanctions have slowly worked on Russian aviation technology, and they predict they will collapse within two weeks.

The Global Fallouts: Implications of the Ukraine war

On 18 November, India's coal-fired power output grown rapidly than any other country in the Asia Pacific since Russia's invasion of Ukraine, underscoring the challenges the world's third largest greenhouse gas emitter in weaning its economy off carbon. The global use of coal including power generation, has grown since the Ukraine war in late February sent prices of other fossil fuels soaring, derailing efforts to transition to cleaner fuels.

On 17 November, the UN watchdog board again urges Russia to end actions at Ukraine's nuclear plants. The UN nuclear watchdog's 35-nation board of Governors on 17 November, passed its third resolution

since the outbreak of the Ukraine war calling on Russia to end all actions at Ukrainian nuclear facilities, diplomats as per the vote. Of the 35 countries 24 countries voted in favour, two countries Russia and China voted against, seven countries Kenya, Namibia, India, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, South Africa and Vietnam abstained and two countries were absent. Canada and Finland called on Russia to immediately withdraw from the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant in southern Ukraine.

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War in Ukraine: Day 267

War on the Ground:

On 17 November, Russia attacked the Ukrainian power grid and gas infrastructure in Dnipro, Kyiv, and Kharkiv. In Dnipro, the

missiles hit a Ukrnafta natural gas transportation facility where 14 people were injured. a Yuzhny machine-building factory which allegedly manufactures Ukrainian long-range missiles was also hit but no damage has been reported yet. Kyiv was attacked with four cruise missiles and five Shahed drones but they were all shot down by the Ukrainian Air Force. In Kharkiv, critical infrastructure was hit which injured three people.

On the same day, Odesa was hit by Russian missiles which damaged a logistics facility. The Odesa City Council reported that six Kalibr missiles from the Black Sea and six air-based missiles launched from two Su-30 were used in the attack. The casualties of the attack were severe damage to buildings and injured one civilian. The Council added that six of these missiles were shot down by the air defences over the sea.

On 17 November, Naftogaz reported that the Russian shelling in Eastern Ukraine had damaged JSC Ukrigasvydobuvannya gas production plants in the region. In a press statement, Naftogaz CEO Oleksiy Chernyshov said that the company is aware of the damage and has dispatched experts to address the damages. Chernyshov added: "They are currently evaluating the consequences and scale of the attack. Also, the information on casualties is being updated."

On 17 November, Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy reported that they had received an invitation to join the investigation of the Poland missile strikes. In an interview with Bloomberg New Economy Forum, Zelenskyy said that Ukrainian experts will be joining the special international commission investigating the Poland missile blast. On 15 November, a Polish village near the Ukrainian border was hit by a missile which killed two people.

The Moscow View: Claims by Russia

On 17 November, the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs released a statement on the extension of the Black Sea initiative for 120 days with no objections from the Russian side. The Ministry reiterated Russia's

demand for the implementation of the Russian-UN Memorandum on the normalisation of Russian agricultural exports along with the Black Sea Grain deal and acknowledged the efforts of the UN Secretariat regarding the same. The statement said that obstacles to Russian food and fertiliser exports will be cleared within the extended period of the deal and added that any further delay in shipments will be unacceptable. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs emphasised that if the humanitarian corridor is used for military provocations then Russia will respond aggressively otherwise they look forward to coordinating and implementing the initiative in the interests of global food security.

On 17 November, the Secretary of the interdepartmental working group on searching for the graves of victims of Ukrainian aggression, their identification and perpetuating the memory Sergey Belov accused Ukraine of hiding the real cause of death of Prisoners of War (POW) According to Belov, Ukrainian officials mislabel the cause of death of POWs to cover up their actions so as to not incur international condemnation. Belov mentioned the case of a POW whose death was labelled as a cardiovascular failure but in reality, was due to traumatic cerebral edema and a fracture of the cranial vault. He said this is not an isolated incident and that his team has been investigating such cases. He has called on international human rights organisations to take note of this gross violation of the Geneva Conventions regarding the treatment of POWs.

On 17 November, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Ryabkov said that the West's accusations of Russian intentions to use nuclear weapons are false. Ryabkov said: "Regardless of the posture we may take on this issue to explain the obvious things, they are trying to accuse us of some non-existent intentions [to use nuclear weapons]." He added that Russia will only resort to using nuclear weapons in two situations otherwise, it will be ruled out. The two cases are if Russia or its allies are attacked with nuclear weapons or weapons of mass destruction and second if an attack on Russia threatens the existence of Russia.

On the same day, Russia's permanent representative to the UN Vassily Nebenzia accused Poland and Ukraine of trying to start a conflict between Russia and NATO. Referring to Poland and Ukraine's reactions to the blast in Poland due to a stray missile, Nebenzia called it "irresponsible" and said it is "a conscious attempt to drag NATO, which is waging "a war by proxy" on Russia in Ukraine, into a direct confrontation with our country." He added that if it were not for the photos from the blast all the evidence would have been hidden from the people and Russia would have been blamed for the blast.

The West View: Responses from the US and Europe

On 17 November, US Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield told the UN Security Council that the Russia-Ukraine war would not have happened if not for Russia's "needless invasion of Ukraine" and the country's recent missile attacks against Ukraine's civilian infrastructure. The Russian side rebutted, saying that Ukraine and Poland are "trying to provoke" a direct clash between Russia and NATO, amid the US and Albania calling on the council for an update on the situation in Ukraine. She also said that the war "can only worsen" in the next few months and that attacks targeted at civilian infrastructure are barred under international law. Additionally, she said that Russian President Vladimir Putin has "decided that if he can't seize Ukraine by force, he will try to freeze the country into submission".

On 17 November, Finland decided to deliver extra defence materials to Ukraine, which will be the tenth package of defence equipment to be delivered to the country, amounting to nearly EUR 55.6 million. In a press release announcing the package, the Minister of Defence said that Ukraine continues to need support in "defending its territory", and that the range of the material is the "largest so far". The total value of assistance of defence material stands at EUR 160.4 million, with Finland assuring Ukraine that their needs and resources have been taken into assistance through this package.

On 17 November, Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan announced that the Black Sea Grain Initiative decided by the UN, Russia and Turkey will be extended for another 120 days, starting from 19 November. Erdogan mentioned that this extension comes from “quadrilateral discussions” hosted by Turkey, and reiterated that more than 11 million tonnes of grains and food materials were provided to those in need, with over 500 ships being used in the last four months. He said that the importance and benefits of this agreement “have become more evident” for the food supply and security of the world.

On 16 November, the Czech Republic’s Defence Minister, Jana Cernochova, said that The Czech government plans to train 4,000 Ukrainian troops in 2023. The training will be conducted in five four-week cycles, each batch having 800 soldiers. The Czech Defence Ministry said that the training would cost around CZK 975 million. The first batch will state its training in December 2022. Following the EU meeting in Luxembourg, the bloc agreed to set up a training mission for 15,000 Ukrainian soldiers and provide EUR 500 million worth of weapons to Ukraine.

The Global Fallouts: Implications of the Ukraine war

On 17 November, UN Secretary-General António Guterres welcomed the extension of the Black Sea Grain Initiative and said that he was “deeply moved” and grateful that an agreement was reached. Guterres reiterated the UN’s “full commitment to support the smooth implementation of the Black Sea Grain Initiative,” and will work towards removing the “remaining obstacles to the unimpeded exports of Russian food and fertilizers.” Guterres also applauded Turkey and the role it has played in the extension of the deal and added that Turkey is now an “essential center for discreet diplomacy to solve dramatic problems.”

On 17 November, *Reuters* reported that Indian and Chinese refineries are now wary about purchasing Russian crude oil loading after 05 December. This is due to the European price cap on Russian oil which will go into effect after 05 December. Chinese refineries are reported to have decreased

imports of Russian oil from December. Indian refineries like Reliance Industries Ltd have reportedly not placed any orders for loading after 05 December. The uncertainties regarding the price cap and reaction of foreign markets has led Indian refineries to proceed with caution.

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War in Ukraine: Day 266

War on the Ground:

On 16 November, Ukraine’s President, Volodymyr Zelenskyy, participated in the panel on digital transformation at the G20 summit in Bali. In the speech, Zelenskyy accused Russia for attacking Poland with its

missiles. He spoke on Ukraine's capacity in, "digital transformation," appreciating the efforts of the IT team to defend cyberattacks. Zelenskyy said that Ukraine was ready to assist countries in digital defence and cybersecurity.

On 16 November, *Kyiv Post* reported that Ukraine requested access to the missile attack site in Poland following NATO's discovery that Ukrainian air defences caused the blast. Ukraine's National Security and Defence Council Secretary, Oleksiy Danilov, said that Ukraine was ready to provide evidence to prove their allegation of Russia being the perpetrator. Danilov pointed out that the Western countries' allegation of the Ukrainian air defence system striking Poland was without substantial proof. NATO and the US had concluded that the attack was caused by Ukrainian air defence against Russian missiles.

On 16 November, Ukraine's Deputy Head of the President's Office, Kyrylo Tymoshenko, announced that energy supplies and electricity were restored in eight Western and Central Ukraine regions. The restoration followed the shelling on 15 November.

On 16 November, Ukraine's Energy Minister, Herman Galushchenko, convened a meeting which was attended by European Ministers, Galushchenko urged the council to help with the restoration of Ukraine's energy systems after being stricken by 100 missiles and large number of drones. He added that the damage Ukraine suffered was critical. However, energy companies domestically have been supporting Ukraine to restore electricity supply.

The Moscow View: Claims by Russia

On 16 November, Russia's presidential spokesperson, Dmitry Peskov said that Russia played no part in the Poland attack and should not be blamed for it. After an initial investigation, it was discovered to be Ukraine's S-300 interceptor missile. He pointed out the Russophobic nature in Europe for Poland and Ukraine blaming Russia for the attack.

On 16 November, Russia's Foreign Ministry imposed sanctions on 52 Irish individuals

due to Ireland's aggressive anti-Russian propaganda campaign in line with the EU's policy against Russia. It included the Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister, Speaker and those present in the lower house.

The West View: Responses from the US and Europe

On 16 November, post the North-Atlantic Council meeting, NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg in his address said: "...we have no indication that this was the result of a deliberate attack. And we have no indication that Russia is preparing offensive military actions against NATO. Our preliminary analysis suggests that the incident was likely caused by a Ukrainian air defence missile fired to defend Ukrainian territory against Russian cruise missile attacks."

On 15 November, The Czech Republic's Parliament's Chamber of Deputies passed a resolution following Russia's attack on Ukraine's key energy infrastructures and on the civilian population with missiles and drones.

On 16 November, Russia's crude oil supply to Hungary and Slovakia resumed through the Druzhba pipeline, after a temporary shutdown on 15 November for technical reasons. Hungary's Foreign Minister Peter Szijjarto said that the flow of the oil was still at lower pressure in the pipeline, while Slovakia's Economy Ministry provided no details except for the resumption. Ukraine had elaborated that a Russian missile struck the power station that provided electricity for the pump station which resulted in the stoppage. The pipeline was repaired to an extent of resuming oil flow at low pressure to Hungary and Slovakia.

On 16 November, the UK's Defence Ministry's in its intelligence update reported that the Kakhovka Hydroelectric Power Plant on the Dnipro River was damaged due to the Ukrainian missile attacks that disrupted the Russian military restocking supply. The dam and the site were damaged by the withdrawing Russians to hinder Ukrainian advances. The road and rail bridges were destroyed and the current damage may lead to major flooding

downstream.

The Global Fallouts: Implications of the Ukraine war

On 16 November, in the G20 summit, the leaders talked about the negative impact on the global economy due to the Ukraine war. According to the G20 group the war had increased food and energy insecurity, rise in inflation, supply chain disruption, cost of living crisis and security issues in neighbouring countries. Especially, Moldova and Bulgaria were observed to be severely affected by the high inflation rates.

On 15 November, India's Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, called for peace talks to end the Russia-Ukraine war at the Bali G20 summit. The path finds a way for diplomacy and a ceasefire in Ukraine is important to end the war. He said, "The need of the hour is to show concrete and collective resolve to ensure peace, harmony and security in the world," and urged for restoration of stability in energy, food and fertilizer supply at the global level.

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War in Ukraine: Day 265

War on the Ground:

On 15 November, Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy in his G20 address reinstated Ukraine's intention to end war fairly based on the UN charter and international law. He stressed that Ukraine should not reach peace while compromising its sovereignty, territory, and independence. One of the major fallout from the war food insecurity, he wanted the grain initiative to be extended. On the Energy security, he reported on Ukraine's survival on about 40 per cent, with its energy infrastructure destroyed by Russian strikes.

On 15 November, the General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, traced the Russian forces movement. It said that Russia kept the temporarily captured territories, to concentrate their efforts on restraining the Ukraine defence forces and to conduct offensive actions in the Bakhmut, Avdivv and Novopavli direction. In the recent observation, while Russia had launched four missiles and 23 air strikes and launched more than 70 attacks from rocket salvo systems. The Ukrainian Fores struck the enemy 21 times, 18 areas of concentration of personnel, weapons and military equipment, and three positions of Russia's anti-aircraft missile systems.

On 15 November, according to Ukraine's Operational Command South, Head, Nataliia Humeniuk, the Russian forces were observed to be moving 15-20 kilometers to the left bank of the Dnipro River. The

Russian troops had deserted even the fortified set on the east bank of the Dnipro River had advanced deeper to consider the long-range artillery of the armed forces of Ukraine.

On 15 November, “Volodymyr Kudrytskyi” on a Facebook post said that the energy facility that provided energy to the Kherson and Mykolaiv region no longer exists as the Autotransformers each weighing 250 tons were blown up. The Ukrenergo, together with the Ukrainian Central Bank, the State Emergency Service and Oblenergo, are already working out schemes for Kherson.

On 15 November, a Ukrainian military spokesman Yuriy Ilnat claimed that a shortage of missiles further hampers Russian strikes because it's experiencing a lack of cruise and ballistic missiles, Russia is especially short of Iskanders, X555, X101 missiles and Kalibr missiles. Russia shot 15 Kalibr cruise missiles in October, which was not used in November.

The Moscow View: Claims by Russia

On 15 November, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov on the side-lines of the G20 summit in Indonesia said: “Conflict in Ukraine in hybrid war,” in which Russia is facing the wrath of the West triggered crises. He provided examples of the EU's move to train about 15000 troops in the next two years arming and funding Ukrainian troops, supplying intelligence and assisting with identifying targets.

On 15 November, The Russian Defence Ministry reported that Russian armed forces destroyed up to 1400 Ukrainian troops during the battles for Pavlovka. The two Su-25 aircraft and Mi-8 helicopters were shot down. This was announced by the official representative of the Russian Defence Ministry, Lieutenant-General Igor Konashenkav. He stated that with the success of the Russian troops, the settlement of Pavlovka in DPR was freed.

On 15 November, Zvezda reported that the Russian Ministry of Defence will pay 300,000 Roubles to Russians for downed planes. This payment would be made for the

destruction of equipment of the Ukraine armed forces. They would be paid 200,000 for a helicopter, for a destroyed tank and servicemen would receive 100,000 Roubles for an unmanned aerial vehicle (UVA) 50,000. The new recruited soldiers will receive payments for December ahead of schedule, for which 300,000 personnel would be called up as part of the mobilization program.

The West View: Responses from the US and Europe

On 15 November, After the alleged attack on Poland territory by Russia killing two people, Poland is likely to invoke NATO'S Article 4. The article states that if any member is threatened then a collective decision will be taken by NATO. This incident took place in Poland along the border area with Ukraine just six km away from the border. US President has said that Poland's blast may not be due to a missile fired from Russia.

On 15 November, Hungary's Prime Minister Viktor Orban convened the National Defence Council meeting over Poland Missile reports after crude shipments on the Druzhba pipeline were suspended.

On 15 November, ahead of the winter, Germany has reached 100 per cent storage capacity of gas. This milestone was reached on the same day as Germany opened a new quay dedicated to importing of LNG by sea as an alternative to Russian gas. To avoid an energy shortage Germany temporarily reactivated old oil and coal-fired power stations and extended the life spans of Germany's last three nuclear power plants.

On 15 November, Germany set up a hub in Slovakia to repair arms for Ukraine said German Defence Minister Christine Lambrecht. This hub is to be set up to provide service and repair weapons it has delivered to Ukraine. Defence Minister of Slovakia Jaroslav Nad said repair work would start in the next weeks to focus on howitzers and anti-aircraft systems.

The Global Fallouts: Implications of the Ukraine war

On 15 November, at the G20 summit, India's

Prime Minister Narendra Modi called for dialogue and diplomatic solutions to the Ukraine war. He stated that we as a world should find a way to return to the path of a ceasefire in Kyiv.

On 15 November, at the G20 summit, the leaders condemned Russia's war in Ukraine through a draft declaration. They stressed over the risks to global food security by escalating tensions, and emphasised the need for the independence of central banks to ensure they put their best efforts to curb soaring inflation and possible recession in 2023, and human suffering.

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War in Ukraine: Day 264

War on the Ground:

On 14 November, the President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelenskyy in his daily address reported on the re-capturing and resotation effort taken in the Kherson to bring back the normal living conditions for people. Zelenskyy thanked the US and Cannada for their aid to Ukraine. He stressed on ending the deportation of Ukrainian children to Russia, where close to 11 thousand children were found to be deported.

On 14 November, the situation on the ground in Ukraine information from Regional Miliatry Administration; Russian troops shelled at Kharkiv, Sumy, Zaporizhzhia, Dnipropetrovsk, Kherson, Donetsk, Mykolaiv, Chernihiv and Luhansk regions. Two people were killed, and 14 citizens were injured including one child.

On 14 November, Oleksiy Chernyshov, Chairman of the Board of NJSC Naftogaz of Ukraine, and Gavin Grey, chief of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) mission to Ukraine, discussed the impact of the war on the gas sector and planned a new program of cooperation. Naftogaz Group is the largest national oil and gas company in Ukraine. It is a state-owned company, that execute exploration operations and development of deposits, operating and exploratory drilling, extraction, transportation and refinement of natural gas and crude oil, and supply of natural and liquefied gas to consumers.

On 14 November, *Ukrinform* reported on the Ukrainian air force struck down four Russian soldiers, weapons and clusters on the left bank of the Dnipro and Kherson region. Russians on the other hand struck with two Kh-31 missiles in the Beryslav district of the Kherson region. The Operational Command South reported on destruction of 40 tanks and seven armoured combat vehicles by Russia.

On 14 November, the General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine in a Facebook post

thanked the Armed Forces of the Republic of Lithuania for its military support. Lithuania has agreed to give 120-mm Tampella heavy mortars mounted on the M113 A2 armoured platform and mines to the Ukrainian soldiers to fight Russia from a distance of seven kilometres.

On 14 November, *Ukrinform* reported on the damage of close to five residential houses in the Sumy region by Russian shelling. The Russian forces had launched strikes in the border areas with self-propelled artillery. No casualties were reported, Russian forces struck down an enterprise in the Sumy region, till now 19 explosions were recorded, and three workers are reported to be injured.

The Moscow View: Claims by Russia

On 14 November, Russia's Defence Ministry reported that its force had started to advance towards the Donetsk region, freeing Pavlovka village in Donetsk People's Republic (DPR) from the Ukrainian troops. Pavlovka, which is a buffer village located at the crossroads of the exchange of fire, and capturing it paved the way for Russia to advance towards the north. According to the report, the Russian forces have been pushing the Ukrainian troops away from Donetsk city.

On 13 November, Russia's Defence Ministry spokesperson, Igor Konashenkov, announced the strike down of six Ukrainian drones and barring of 13 HIMARS missiles and Olkha shells by the Ukrainian forces. An air defence system was found to have destroyed six UAVs in the Kharkiv region, LPR and DPR.

On 14 November, a former representative of the Kherson region administration, Sergey Moroz, said to TASS that following the occupation of Kherson city by the Ukrainian forces, there had been an increase in attacks on the communities located on the left bank of the Dnieper River. Moroz added that civilian infrastructures on the left bank are being targeted by Ukraine's Armed Forces after its arrival in Kherson city. He said that Ukrainian forces in Kherson have been using cannon artillery to shell the left bank to de-

occupy Russians from the rest of the Kherson region.

On 14 Nov, Russia's Deputy Foreign Minister, Alexander Grushko, criticized NATO's expansionism and said that the conflict in Ukraine stemmed from NATO's intention of expanding towards Ukraine, to gain a closer border with Russia. NATO refuted the accusation stating that it has an open-door policy that allows any country that requires its protection. However, recent Turkey blocking Finland and Sweden has brought to light that in its charter, it states that all its member states must approve any expansion. The inclusion of Ukraine as its objective despite the warning from Russia is the main reason for the start of the war, according to Grushko.

The West View: Responses from the US and Europe

On 14 November, the US Department of the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) and the US Department of State introduced a new set of sanctions on transnational network procuring technology that supports the Russian military-industrial complex. OFAC froze the assets of 14 individuals and 28 firms. It also blocked eight aircrafts. It also aims to cut Russia's revenue to fund the war and weaken its military. A Russian microelectronics firm, Milandr, was also targeted for being the primary supplier of the imported microelectronics that Russia's Defence Ministry.

On 14 November, the UK's Defence Ministry in its intelligence update reported that the winter would present tough times during the war. The reduction in daylight will be predicted to increase in defensive battles and limit Ukraine's offensive. The report warned of colder weather and preparation for it. It cautioned both sides to be prepared for night vision battles. The conditions are predicted to get harsher during December and January.

On 14 November, the Czech Presidency of the Council of the EU announced that the bloc had started a training mission for 15,000 Ukrainian soldiers. The Ukrainian soldier is trained under the EU Military

Assistance Mission. On 17 October, the EU Military Assistance Mission was approved at the EU Foreign Affairs Council meeting in Luxembourg.

On 14 November, Germany and Poland announced nationalizing the Russian energy company Gazprom's assets within their country to secure the energy supply in the winter. The new firm, Securing Energy for Europe GmbH (SEFE), previously known by Gazprom Germania, controls Germany's largest gas storage facility in northwestern Rehden. The EU approving EUR 225.6 million in assistance to Gazprom Germania prompted the nationalization of the Russian energy subsidiary in Germany. Poland announced similar actions with Europolgaz, which owns the Polish section of the Yamal-Europe gas pipeline. Both countries stated that nationalization was necessary to protect their energy security.

The Global Fallouts: Implications of the Ukraine war

On 14 November, the UN General Assembly adopted a resolution that demanded Russia pay for reparation for its actions in Ukraine. Among the 193 member states, 50 countries co-sponsored the resolution for compensating the damages, losses injuries that Russia caused to Ukraine. Ukraine urged the UN to hold Russia accountable for the war crime it committed in Ukraine. The reparation mechanism will be created by a group of member states who will decide how it will work. The reparation mechanism will be created outside the UN, making its role null and void. The Russian Ambassador Vasily Nebenzya responded to the draft resolution that a narrow group of states are trying to enact their own law rather than adhering to international law. He added that the UNGA is not a judicial body to force Russia to pay for reparation.

On 14 November, the *Wall Street Journal* reported that US President Joe Biden and China's President Xi Jinping agreed in acknowledging the threat of the use of nuclear weapons in the Ukraine war. The two leaders think a nuclear war should be avoided at all costs. The statement from Biden and Xi came following their meeting on the sidelines of the G20 summit in Bali.

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War in Ukraine: Day 262 & 263

War on the Ground:

On 13 November, Ukraine's Deputy Head of the Office of the President, Kyrylo Tymoshenko, reported installation of concrete walls with barbed wires along the border with Belarus in the Volyn region. The reason given was to protect the border from Belarusian and Russian intrusion. He said that the concrete fences are not only installed in the Volyn region but also along the borders of the hostile states of Belarus and Russia.

On 12 November, in his speech, Ukraine's Foreign Minister, Dmytro Kuleba, said that the war would continue even after the exit of the Russian troops in the Kherson city. Only negotiations or victory will end the war. He requested the ASEAN states to ensure that Russia does not disrupt the Ukrainian grain shipments to the global markets. He thanked Australia for its military aid of USD 440 million following a bilateral meeting with Prime Minister Anthony Albanese on the summit's sidelines.

On 12 November, in a facebook post, Khersonoblenergo Joint Stock Company, the electricity supplier for Kherson city, reported that the works for restoring electricity in the city will begin after the mandatory military permission is obtained. Kherson region which has been without electricity for a long time after the Russian attacks its critical infrastructure has suffered the major damage. Khersonoblenergo, along with domestic and international energy companies, is trying to restore electricity in the war-torn Kherson region.

On 12 November, Kuleba tweeted on *Twitter* about his discussion with Estonia's Foreign Minister, Urmas Reinsalu. The discussion focused on coordinating in building a special tribunal against Russia for war crimes. Kuleba expressed gratitude to the Estonian government for providing generators to Ukraine to mitigate its energy crisis.

On 11 November, Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, in his video message announced the implementation of the EU's "Solidarity Lanes" initiative. The initiative aims to find, establish and promote

alternative routes for Ukrainian agricultural exports in the Black Sea, to ensure smoother transactions. It eliminates transport delays at the border between Ukraine and the EU to improve the logistics of goods. The EU pledged to allocate EUR 850 million, and the world bank announced EUR 100 million to back Ukraine's grain exports. He added that Ukrainian investigator have discovered that Russia has committed over 400 war crimes and has uncovered the bodies of servicemen and civilians from the de-occupied Kherson region. His claims are yet to be verified.

The Moscow View: Claims by Russia

On 13 November, *RT* reported on Ukraine's Novaya Kakhovka city's Mayor, Vladimir Leontyev, comments on the Kakhovskaya hydroelectric dam in Russian occupied Kherson region. According to Leontyev the dam suffered monumental damage to its infrastructure and could take a year or more to be repaired. Leontyev accused the Ukrainian forces of the attacks. Russia alleged Ukraine for using the US-made HIMARS missile system to target the dam. It also alleged that the main reason Ukrainian forces targeted the dam was to flood the region to destroy the infrastructure. In response, the Russian Defence Ministry stated that the troops withdrew from Kherson city due to fear of flooding from the attack on Kakhovskaya dam.

On 12 November, the Kherson region's capital was announced by Russia's Deputy Defence Minister, Alexander Fomin, as Genichesk, where the headquarters of major government agencies are located. Genichesk was made the temporary administrative capital of the Kherson region. The port city, which lies on the Azov Sea, is reputed for its resorts. The capital was assigned following the withdrawal of the Russian troops from the Kherson region. Hundreds of civilians were relocated to the right bank of the river.

On 12 November, the leader of a pro-Russian group in Zaporizhzhia, "We Stand With Russia" Vladimir Rogov, reported in *TASS* that there was a confirmation of a mercenary count from 40 countries fighting in the area near Zaporizhzhia. The count was estimated to be around 5,000 mercenaries,

who were from Poland, Japanese, Australian, Canadian, French and Spanish-speaking mercenaries. Rogov believes that Ukraine will focus on Zaporizhzhia following the withdrawal of Russian troops from Kherson city.

The West View: Responses from the US and Europe

On 12 November, Secretary of State for the US Anthony J. Blinken and Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba released statements before their meeting in Cambodia. Secretary Blinken expressed his delight after the withdrawal of Russian forces from Kherson and appreciated the remarkable courage of the Ukrainian armed forces. Reinsuring the United States support to Ukraine until the war is over. He expressed his concern over Russia brutalizing the energy infrastructure of Ukraine on ground.

On 13 November, the United Kingdom's Ministry of Defence in its intelligence updated the latest Defence Intelligence program in Ukraine. The Education Minister of Russia, Sergey Kravtsov, it mandatory for students to take military training starting in September 2023. This reprises a USSR-era practice which ended in 1993 would reinforce in Russia. The training includes contingencies for a chemical or nuclear attack, first aid and experience handling and firing Kalashnikov rifles. A training program is being drafted and the Russian Ministry of Defence supports the process, the draft will be completed by the end of 2022

The Global Fallouts: Implications of the Ukraine war

On 12 November, India's Minister of External Affairs, S Jaishankar, met Kuleba Foreign Minister of Ukraine, Foreign Minister they met on the side-lines of ASEAN-India summit. They discussed recent developments in the region, nuclear concerns and way to end the Russia's war on Ukraine. Jaishankar reinstated the words of Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi that is not "an era of war" and a peaceful resolution could be reached with dialogue and diplomacy.

On 13 November, South Korea's President Yoon Suk-yeol, pledged to increase the

volume of humanitarian aid delivered to Ukraine. Prez Yoon also highlighted that the invasion of Ukraine was a breach international law and a threat to the lives and rights of the Ukrainian people. *Ukrinform*, reported on the sale of 155mm artillery shells to the United States by South Korea, which is intended to further the supply of the Ukrainian forces.

On 12 November, UN's Secretary General Antonis Guterres, in his visit to Cambodia spoke about peace in Ukraine. He stated that Russia's invasion was a violation of the UN Charter, and violated the country's territorial integrity. He stressed the importance to create and keep the channel of dialog open which would be very helpful to re-establish relationship and maintain peace in the future based on the values of the UN charter, and peace based on international law.

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War in Ukraine: Day 261

War on the Ground:

On 11 November, Russian troops shelled territories in the Chernihiv region and Berslav district in the Kherson region. In Chernihiv, Operation Command "North" reported nine strikes of shelling was fired in Mykolaivka settlement. The shelling did not damage any civilian infrastructure, military equipment nor caused any civilian or military personnel casualties. In Beryslav, the Kherson Regional police reported that the Russian the troops shelled with heavy artillery and hit civilian infrastructure and were destroyed. The number of casualties has not been reported.

On 09 November, in an interview with CNN, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said that that the doors for peace talks and negotiations with Russia were "not closed," and added that Russia had only issued ultimatums with no concrete efforts towards negotiations. Zelenskyy reiterated Ukrainian demands for the return of all occupied lands, rights, freedom, money, and most importantly justice, which according to him is not what the Russians want.

On 11 November, Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba met Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen and Cambodia's

Deputy Prime Minister, Foreign Minister Prak Sokhonn in the side-lines of the ASEAN summit in Cambodia. The discussion focused on the demining assistance provided by Cambodia to Japan and included parameters like the specific actors involved in the project and the schedule of the operation. Kuleba added: "In the past, Cambodia suffered from war for a long time, and it has considerable experience in demining. That is, there is expertise, there is equipment, so we will involve them in solving our problems."

The Moscow View: Claims by Russia

On 11 November, Kherson Emergency Services reported that the Antonovskiy Bridge was destroyed. The agency added: "Two spans of the bridge were destroyed." The Kherson government chairperson Sergey Eliseev initially denied that the bridge was destroyed on 11 November, but later war correspondent Alexander Kots presented footage of the destroyed bridge. He added that the destruction was ignored to the withdrawal of Russian troops from the right bank to the left bank of the Dnieper river.

On 11 November, the Russian Ministry of Defence reported that over 30,000 military personnel and 5,000 units of military armament and equipment had moved to the left bank of the Dnieper river. The military equipment that was in need of repair has also been moved to the left bank. The Ministry of Defence added that all military equipment was transferred with nothing was left behind.

On 11 November, the Russian Defence Ministry spokesman Igor Konashenkov reported that the Russian army's counter-battery measure has destroyed a unit of US M777 towed howitzers in Kharkov region. Konashenkov reported on the destruction of 32 HIMARS rockets and five HARM anti-radar missiles in the Kherson region, LPR and DPR by the Russian air defence systems. He added that seven unmanned aerial vehicles were downed in LPR and DPR. In LPR a unit of Ukrainian self-propelled howitzers Akatsiya and an ammunition depot of the 28th mechanized brigade of

Ukraine's Armed Forces were destroyed.

**The West View:
Responses from the US and Europe**

On 11 November, Hungary has been undertaking humanitarian efforts in Transcarpathia and other Western Ukrainian regions since the war began. Hungary's Parliamentary State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade Levente Magyar on his visit to Transcarpathia said: "Hungary is also providing assistance to Transcarpathia in the form of concrete institutional developments."

On 11 November, Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán accused the EU for escalating the Ukraine war and risking the economy through aid, and increased sanctions. In the summit of Turkic nations, Orban appreciated Turkey's efforts to broker peace in the conflict with a special reference to the Black Sea Grain Deal which according to him reduced the threat of increased migration from vulnerable nations.

On 11 November, *Reuters* reported that the German government has lent an extra EUR one billion from its 2023 budget to Ukraine, to battle against cyberattacks. The fund would also entail the protection of civil society in the broader region, including the protection of journalists from Belarus, Russia and Ukraine.

On 11 November, *Reuters* reported that the US looks to buy South Korean artillery shells to send it to Ukraine. The purchase of 100,000 rounds of South Korean 155m artillery shells by the US is suspected to be funded by the Ukraine Security Assistance Initiative (USAI) funds. The US officials are unsure if the artillery shells will pass US territory while transporting it to Ukraine. This move was welcomed by Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and said that this decision to send weapons was "indispensable."

**The Global Fallouts:
Implications of the Ukraine war**

On 11 November, UN and Russian representatives met in Geneva to discuss the extension of the Black Sea Grain deal. UN

humanitarian chief Martin Griffiths and UN trade chief Rebeca Grynspan met Russia's Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Vershinin and discussed about Russian demands to restructure the Black Sea Grain deal. UN Geneva spokeswoman Alessandra Vellucci said: "This discussion, it is hoped, should advance progress made in facilitating the unimpeded export of food and fertilizers originating from the Russian Federation to the global markets." The Black Sea Grain deal is set to end on 19 November and after Russia withdrew from the deal on 29 October, this meeting is essential to ensure food security around the world and prevent a global food crisis. Russian spokesperson Dmitry Peskov said: "...there is a mutual understanding on the part of our counterparts in the UN. Therefore, work is underway in this direction."

On 11 November, South Korea's Defence Ministry reiterated its stance on not providing Ukraine lethal aid. This comes after reports emerged over the US buying its artillery shells for Ukraine. In a statement, the South Korean Defence Ministry said that "confidential" negotiations are underway regarding the sale of ammunition but under the assumption that the US is the end user. The Ministry added: "In order to make up for the shortage of 155mm ammunition inventories in the US, negotiations are ongoing between the US and Korean companies to export ammunition." Since the conflict began, South Korea has not provided any lethal aid to Ukraine and has only provided humanitarian assistance to Ukraine.

On 11 November, Cambodia's Foreign Ministry reported that Cambodia in collaboration with Japan will be sending deminers to Ukraine to help train the troops to clear land mines placed by Russia. The Cambodian Mine Action Centre said that it would be sending the first team in December to Ukraine and the second team in early next year. Cambodia has previously collaborated with other war-torn regions to help with demining.

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War in Ukraine: Day 260

War on the Ground:

On 10 November, Ukraine's Foreign Affairs Minister Dmytro Kuleba met ASEAN Secretary-General Dato Lim Jock Hoi to discuss on improving the relations between Ukraine and Southeast Asia. The focus of the discussion was on trade, food security, and digital transformation to boost the economic and political cooperation.

On Russia's announcement of withdrawal from Kherson, Ukraine President Volodymyr

Zelenskyy expressed doubt despite the UK intelligence stating the strain in the re-supply routes of Russia. Zelenskyy said: "The enemy does not bring us gifts, does not make 'gestures of goodwill.'"

The Moscow View:

Claims by Russia

On 10 November, *RT* reported on the remarks of the Indian Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on developing a collective effort to security and increasing narratives about the war in respective terms. It related how Russia's argument and the minister's coincided with preventing military activity of NATO in 1997. On the same day, a spokesperson from the Wagner Group reported on attacking positions of Russian forces in the northeast of Bakhmut, Avdiivka, and western Donetsk areas.

The West View:

Responses from the US and Europe

On 10 November, the White House declared a new military package of USD 400 million, which will include Hawk and US Avenger air defence systems and Stinger missiles. According to Pentagon it will send HIMARS, "High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicles," grenade launchers and demolition equipment along with the air defence system.

Spain has also vowed to send two Hawk missile launchers and Aspide surface-to-air missile system after receiving request from the NATO. According to Spain's Defence Ministry, it is currently training 21 Ukrainian soldiers in handling 105/14 howitzers and of which it reported that 19 had skilled in learning to use the Aspide air-defence system. It is also estimating to train 400 more in the coming months.

The UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak in his conversation with Zelenskyy assured to increase the military aid by sending 1,000 surface to air missiles, and 25,000 "cold winter kits" for the Ukraine troops to help through the winter.

On 10 November, the Norwegian government promised to provide NOK 1.5 billion to the UK led international fund for Ukraine to help it acquire more military

equipment from the defence industry. Till now Norway has allotted NOK 4.4 billion in total as military support to Ukraine

The Global Fallout:

Implications of the Ukraine war

On 10 November, Amnesty International reported on Russia's transfer of civilians from its occupied areas as war crimes and accused Russian forces for forcibly moving the people and for separating the children from their families. In the interview it conducted amongst 88 civilians residing in Mariupol, Kharkiv, Lugansk, Kherson, and Zaporizhzhia found that the deported people were subject to detention, torture and ill-treatment. According to the secretary general: "Separating children from their families and forcing people hundreds of kilometers from their homes are further proof of the severe suffering Russia's invasion has inflicted on Ukraine's civilians." On the same day, IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva reported on Belgium's transfer of EUR 4.96 million as aid to Ukraine's economy.

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War in Ukraine: Day 259

War on the Ground:

On 08 November, Ukraine's First Deputy Prime Minister and Economy Minister, Yuliya Svyridenko, met with the US officials discussed increasing metallurgical trade between both countries, the energy crisis

and the strengthening of Ukraine's economy. Ukraine requested the US to sanction Russia's metallurgical products and instead make its market available for Ukrainian metallurgical exports. Svyridenko also requested the US to increase its supply of anti-missiles, anti-drones, generators, and transformers to Ukraine. Ukraine also requested aid from the US in implementing the Recovery Plan in Ukraine, which focuses on green and carbon-neutral energy sources to replace the damaged energy infrastructures. The USAID said it would support small and medium-scale businesses in Ukraine to boost its economy in the aftermath of the war.

On 09 November, *Ukrinform* reported that Ukraine's air defence destroyed a Russian Kh-31 missile in the Odesa region. According to the Odesa Regional Military Administration, the city and the region are under control, and there were no Russian missile carriers in the Black Sea.

On 09 November, Ukraine's power system operator, NEC Ukrenergo, reported in a *Facebook* post that citizens should practice maximum restrictions on electricity consumption. According to Ukrenergo, the regions of Kyiv, Chernihiv, Cherkasy, Zhytomyr, Sumy, Kharkiv, Poltava, Zaporizhzhia, Dnipropetrovsk and Kirovohrad will experience maximum stabilization restriction. It requested the consumer avoid using powerful electrical appliances simultaneously and help reduce the load on the grid. Ukraine's Prime Minister Denys Shmyhal announced that Kyiv and Kharkiv regions particularly have power supply difficulties due to critical infrastructures being attacked by Russia.

On 09 November, Ukraine's President's head of the Office, Andriy Yermak, held a video conference with Ukrainian and International human rights organizations discussing the human rights violation by Russia. He accused Russia of violating the Geneva convention and human rights regarding the Ukrainian prisoner and the concentration camps. He pointed out the inefficiency of the International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC) in monitoring Russia's actions towards Ukrainian prisoners. Ukrainian and

International human rights organizations agreed to form a collective global human rights body to oversee violations such as the Russians are committing in Ukraine.

On 09 November, Ukraine's General Staff of the Armed Forces reported on *Facebook* that the Russians had launched seven rockets and 32 air strikes and fired more than 70 bombardments from jet-fire systems. They also reported that Belarus had provided infrastructure, territory, and airspace to Russia to assist their military campaign against Ukraine. Belarus has formed a unit of operators of strike bpla drones to assist Russia. Belarus called to help Russia with brotherly aid.

The Moscow View: Claims by Russia

On 09 November, Russia's Ambassador to the US, Anatoly Antonov, said that Ukraine is trying to develop a dirty bomb or create a nuclear power plant disaster to provoke Russia. He added that Ukraine has a surplus stock of Uranium-235 and Plutonium-239, radioactive substances that are the main components of a nuclear charge, which will be used to make a dirty bomb. According to him, Ukraine plans to drag the US and NATO directly into the conflict. The usage of nuclear weapons will cause irreversible consequences. He also said that by using the dirty bombs, Ukraine is trying to pit NATO and US against Russia, which will have serious results. The west has denied the allegations against Ukraine, and Russia has asked International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to inspect Ukrainian facilities for dirty bombs.

On 09 November, Luhansk People's Republic's (LPR) People's Council's Speaker, Denis Miroshnichenko, said that the LPR parliament would start adopting laws within the Russian legislative framework and become a Russian constituent entity in December. He added that the integration of LPR into Russia will be completed by 2026. LPR will adopt a new constitution by the end of 2022.

On 09 November, Russia's Deputy Foreign Minister Andrey Rudenko said that Russia is not engaging with the US to negotiate with

Ukraine. He added that Russia is ready to hold negotiations with Ukraine with one condition that Ukraine shows goodwill. He remarked on the Ukrainian law forbidding talks with Russia that his country is open for negotiation and it is Ukraine's choice if it does not want peace talks. He said that Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has lost interest in having peaceful talks and has backslid from the agreement in Turkey.

On 09 November, *Lenta.ru* reported that Russia's President Vladimir Putin demanded that a new allowance for families with children be created by 2023. He called for maximizing effectiveness and tangibility in support of families with children at the state level. He iterated that the goal is to minimize poverty among Russian families. He wanted Russian families to be economically healthy by 2023.

The West View: Responses from the US and Europe

On 09 November, *Reuters* reported that the Eastern European countries expect a huge influx of Ukrainian refugees in their countries in the winter. They have been preparing reception centres and restocking supplies such as food, water, and clothes as the winter nears. Russia is targeting Ukraine's electricity grid and heating plants. Slovakia's government formulated a contingency plan for 6.9 million displaced people within Ukraine. Figures from the UNHCR show that 4.5 million Ukrainian refugees are registered in its neighbouring countries, Poland, Slovakia, Hungary and Romania. The surge in refugees due to the lack of electricity to warm up in winter has risen to 15 per cent more than the average. The bordering countries identify winter as the main reason for the displacement of Ukrainian refugees.

On 08 November, Luxembourg's Foreign Affairs Minister, Jean Asselborn, said in his speech at the Parliament that Luxembourg has frozen Russian assets worth EUR 5.5 billion due to the EU sanctions. It has blocked a third of EUR 17.5 billion worth of Russian assets that the EU has blocked. He warned Russia that tougher sanctions would be placed on it if it did not change its behaviour. He also cautioned the western

nations not to be neutral in the war. Luxembourg has provided EUR 72 million, weapons and materials to Ukraine to assist the ongoing war.

On 09 November, the UK's Defence Ministry's intelligence update stated that Russia would take till September 2023 to repair the Crimean bridge that was attacked by Ukraine's Armed Forces. The bridge attack disrupted the supply of resources to the Crimean peninsula and reduced the mobility of Russian troops and the logistics of weapons from Crimea.

The Global Fallouts: Implications of the Ukraine war

On 09 November, *RT* reported that Chinese company Beijing Skyrizon Aviation Industry Investment had filed a lawsuit against Ukrainian aviation company, Motor Sich, to win a major stake in the company. The Chinese company had acquired Motor Sich. However, the Ukrainian government wanted to operate the assets amid the war in Ukraine, which caused a loss of USD 4.5 billion in damage to Beijing Skyrizon. The Ukrainian defence ministry deemed it is necessary to control the company due to the military conflict with Russia. The stakes may either return to the original owners or brought out by the government.

On 09 November, Russia's and Iran's secretaries of the Security Council discussed cooperation between the two countries and solutions to counter the West's influence in their internal affairs. They discussed the situation in Ukraine and the security cooperation between the two countries.

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War in Ukraine: Day 258

War on the Ground:

On 08 November, Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy spoke virtually at the COP27 climate in Sharm el-Sheikh where he spoke on the importance of peace in implementing effective climate policy. Zelenskyy spoke on how the negative effects of climate change are spoken of every year as there are actors who do not take the matter of climate change seriously and consider it rhetoric but no real action. Zelenskyy spoke with reference to the negative effects that the Russian invasion

has had so far on climate and the risks it brings in the future. He talked about how with a decrease in energy supply and rising prices many countries turned to coal as a cheaper alternative to keep the prices down. Zelenskyy stressed the increase in food crises in the world, especially in those regions where nations are still recovering from climate disasters. Zelenskyy highlighted the impact the war has had in Ukraine, since the war started Russia with its shelling has destroyed five million acres of forests in Ukraine. The recent grave situation at the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant with the constant connections fluctuations has raised the risk of a potential radiation disaster which will not only affect Ukraine but also the Middle East, parts of Europe and northern Africa. All of this goes to show that peace in conflict regions is needed to achieve effective implementation of climate policies according to Zelenskyy. He advocated the creation of an international platform that studies the impact of military actions on climate and the environment.

On 08 November, Russian troops shelled the Kherson, Sumny, and Donetsk regions mainly targeting civilian infrastructure. In Kherson, Russian troops used multiple launch rocket systems (MLRS) to shell the settlement of Velyka Oleksandrivka and two civilians were reported to be injured. In Sumny, the troops used 59 mortars and shells at the border areas and struck Krasnopillia, Bilopillia, Znob-Novhorodske, Velyka Pysarivka, and Myropillia communities. In Donetsk, Kramatorsk city was shelled by the Russian troops which struck a local school and a nearby residential building and an eight-year-old boy was injured. The Donetsk head of Regional Military Administration Pavlo Kyrylenko said that the civilians should evacuate the region.

On 08 November, the Ukrainian General Staff of Armed Forces reported on the various attacks by Russia in the occupied regions and restricting efforts of Ukraine's defence forces in the directions of Bakhmut, Avdiivka and Novopavlivka directions. The Russian troops attacked settlements in Kharkiv, Donetsk, Zaporizhzhia, and Kherson by

launching three missiles and 10 air strikes. The Russian troops used air strikes, unmanned combat ariel vehicles (UCAVs), mortars, rockets, tanks, different artillery systems, and multiple launch rocket systems (MLRS) to carry out offensive attacks. The General Staff reported that the Ukrainian air forces launched 16 attacks on Russian targets which hit four Russian command posts, eight personnel, ammunition and military equipment clusters and four air defence system positions. The General Staff added that four Russian personnel and military equipment clusters were hit by missile and artillery units of Ukraine.

On 08 November, Ukrainian Prime Minister Denys Shmyhal gave an update on the energy reserves of the country for winter. According to Shmyhal, Ukraine has 14.6 billion cubic meters of gas in reserves and 1.5 million tonnes of coal at TPP and its warehouses. Shymhal said that Ukraine is pumping more gas in than taking it out and that the coal reserves are twice more than the required guarantee. He added that 98 per cent of the gas reserves is Ukrainian gas and the rest 2 per cent is from non-residents. Ukrgasvydobuvannya JSC, a state-owned company produced around 10 billion cubic meters of natural gas from January to September 2022 which is just two per cent less than the previous year's output. Shmyhal said that the key challenge to solve before the coming winter is the deliberated damage caused to energy infrastructure caused by Russia.

The Moscow View: Claims by Russia

On 08 November, TASS reported that Ukrainian forces were setting up ambushes by disguising themselves as Russian forces. This was from the interview TASS held with a DPR militia who was captured by Ukrainian forces in Avdeyevka. Vyacheslav Salakhadinov was one of the prisoners released under the Prisoner of War exchange program. Salakhadinov recollected how his vehicle was hit and his commander died on the spot whereas he was injured and tried to retreat to Russian positions. After two days he was reportedly ambushed by Ukrainian forces who were wearing a DPR uniform and had marked their vehicles with a Z.

Salakhadinov recounted how he was repeatedly questioned about the Russian force's position, strength and equipment but was beaten up with a specific focus on his injuries when he denied having any knowledge and answer to their questions.

On 08 November, DPR's mission to the Joint Control and Coordination Center or issues related to Ukraine's war crimes reported 21 shelling attacks by the Ukrainian troops in the region. This attack happened in the morning when Donetsk city was shelled 10 times with 45 artillery shells of 152 millimetres and 155 millimetres and in Kievsky district the troops also shelled using Grad multiple rocket launchers. The casualties reported were the death of two civilians of which one was a teenage girl and two were wounded. There was also shelling in Gorlovka city where it was shelled seven times and Yasinovataya city which was shelled two times, settlements of Troitskoye and Staromikhailovka were also shelled.

On 08 November, the Russian Ministry of Defence published a video of drones destroying a Ukrainian T-64 tank which was shelling Russian troops. The tank was reportedly hiding behind a technical facility and high-rise apartment blocks in an urban area. The video footage shows how one drone spotted the tank and another launched a kamikaze drone at the tank and hit it directly with precision.

On the same day, Russian Defence Ministry spokesman Lieutenant-General Igor Konashenkov reported on the activities of the Russian troops in Ukraine. Konashenkov reported that the Russian air defence forces had downed a Ukrainian Su-25 aircraft in DPR and intercepted 17 HIMARS and Olkha rockets in DPR and Kherson region. The Russian troop's also intercepted an attack by a Ukrainian motorized infantry battalion in Kupyansk with casualties and wounded crossing 160 militants. They also destroyed two tanks, three infantry fighting vehicles and two motor vehicles in Kupyansk. The troops also eliminated seven Ukrainian unmanned aerial vehicles in LPR, DPR, Nikolayev region and Kherson region. The troops also destroyed radars, anti-aircraft missile systems, armament depots, Ukrainian

command posts, military troops and operational-tactical and army aviation aircraft.

The West View: Responses from the US and Europe

On 08 November, Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu said that Turkey is the country "making the most effort" to put an end to the Russia-Ukraine War. Cavusoglu said that Turkey is the country that "contributes" the most to global peace and will continue its efforts to end the aggression. Further, he added that the international system is seeing a surge in multiple crises, and said that Turkey is contributing to "lower the tension and alleviate the crises" in the global system. Cavusoglu also highlighted the success of the country's endeavours on the diplomatic front and said that its mediation activities are yielding results and making a difference in various countries. He noted the country's efforts to compete with global food security issues and said that Turkey is making the "biggest contribution", with the grain export deal being signed by the UN, Russia and Ukraine in Istanbul.

On 08 November, the US National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan confirmed that communication channels between the US and Russia "remain open". The confirmation comes as the US denies any reports that Sullivan leads talks with Russia to avert a nuclear escalation in Ukraine. Sullivan mentioned that it was "in the interests" of the US to sustain contact with Russia. Senior officials mentioned that the talks between the two spoke of ways to guard against the risk of nuclear escalation in Ukraine, but did not engage in any negotiations to end the war. Sullivan said that the US had "an obligation to pursue accountability" in the matter, and vowed to hold Russia responsible for "what they have done". He said that he met with President Zelenskyy to get a briefing on the "level of death and devastation" in the region.

On 08 November, Finland announced that it will continue to support the grain shipments of the World Food Programme (WFP) from Ukraine to Somalia. Finland added that it will raise its humanitarian assistance to the Horn

of Africa, where more than 20 million people are in dire requirement of food aid. The minister for Development and Foreign Trade Ville Skinnari said that it is “critically important” that the shipments from Ukraine to the Horn of Africa continue. Skinnari said that Finland’s assistance will “make it possible” to lend shelter, clean water and health services to people in refugee camps and the communities.

On 08 November, the US representative to the UN Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield visited Kyiv. There she saw the damage caused by Russian attacks on Kyiv and said that while the city was destroyed she saw that it is a “city strengthened, determined to survive.” Thomas-Greenfield met with Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy where the two discussed matters relating to the food security crisis, Ukraine’s preparations for winter and holding Russia accountable for its war crimes. In the discussions relating to food security, she visited the factories that store and process the grains which are sent to the Ukrainians and expressed that this is an important concern for her. Thomas-Greenfield said how this attack on Russia and the subsequent attacks on Ukrainian grain silos and agriculture infrastructure have affected food security in vulnerable countries like Ethiopia and Yemen. When it came to the topic of winter preparations, Thomas-Greenfield announced USD 25 million in additional funds will be provided to Ukraine from USAID to help vulnerable people in winter. This assistance will go towards winter planning, response efforts and scaling up assistance to vulnerable households.

The Global Fallouts: Implications of the Ukraine war

On 08 November, *Reuters* reported the speech of European Council President Charles Michel at the opening of the China International Import Expo (CIIE) on 04 November was cancelled. This was informed to *Reuters* by three European diplomats who said that they were surprised that the speech was cancelled as Michel was one of the speakers at the expo. Michel had reportedly sent a pre-recorded video at the request of the Chinese authorities according to Michel’s spokesman Barend Leyts. Leyts added that

they have addressed this matter through diplomatic channels in China. The speech reportedly criticised Russia’s invasion of Ukraine and included that the EU has learnt from its dependency on Russia and will not do the same with China. Michel was also said to have called on China to use its “no-limits” partnership to pressurise Russia to stop the conflict. From the Chinese side, there have been no statements from the organisers, the commerce ministry or the Shanghai city government. When the Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian was asked about this he said: “I am not aware of the relevant situation. I cannot comment on this.”

On 08 November, Indian Foreign Minister S Jaishankar met Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov and Russian Deputy Prime Minister Denis Manturov in Moscow. The two sides agreed to increase trade and economic cooperation between India and Russia and meet the target of USD 30 billion set by their leaders. When it came to India’s purchase of Russian oil despite Western pressures, Jaishankar said that it is the “fundamental obligation” of the government to ensure that each citizen has access to fuel irrespective of their income level. Jaishankar added: “In that respect, quite honestly, we have seen that the India-Russia relationship has worked to our advantage. So, if it works to my advantage, I would like to keep that going.” Jaishankar in the meeting reiterated Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s call to end and said repeated Modi’s words “this is not an era of war.” Jaishankar also addressed the increasing food and energy security concerns, especially in the Global South. He offered India’s help in initiatives related to food grains and fertilizer shipments and any initiative that would help de-risk and stabilise the global economy and order.

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War in Ukraine: Day 257

War on the Ground:

On 06 November, Ukraine’s military intelligence reported that conflicts between Belarusian and Russian troops arose in Belarus. The disrespectful attitude of Russian soldiers towards Belarussians is found to be the root cause of the conflict. Statements and remarks made by the Russian soldiers based on ethnicity and their characteristics towards Belarusian soldiers

have caused rifts between the two military forces.

On 07 November, Defence Minister Oleksii Reznikov reported in a tweet that Ukraine’s Armed forces had received six NASAMS air defence systems from the US and the Aspide anti-aircraft missile complex from Spain. He thanked the US, Norway and Spain for supporting Ukraine’s fight against Russia. He said, “...These weapons will significantly strengthen Ukraine’s Army and will make our skies safer.”

On 07 November, Kyiv Post reported that 1,300 Starlink satellites that SpaceX CEO Elon Musk provided to Ukraine’s military had gone offline, sparking fear that Ukraine’s Armed Forces might lose access to internet services. The Starlink satellites had replaced internet and mobile phone networks in Ukraine after Russian attacks destroyed them. A funding issue had an impact on the functionality of the satellites. The 1,300 Starlink satellite units have been subjected to power outage due to the funding negotiation. The Armed Forces fear that the eccentric billionaire Elon Musk would change his mind regarding fundings the satellites which have helped Ukraine’s military locate Russian troops in critical areas. The UK, the US and Poland have been helpful in supporting the funding of the satellite terminals in Ukraine.

The Moscow View: Claims by Russia

On 07 November, *RT* reported that amid the war in Ukraine, Russia completed testing its new strategic nuclear submarine, Generalissimo Suvorov. The K-553 Generalissimo Suvorov is a fourth-generation ballistic missile submarine and an upgraded Borei-A class. It can carry up to 16 nuclear-capable Bulava missiles. The US and the EU fear that the new nuclear submarine might pose a threat in the ongoing Ukraine war.

On 07 November, *Lenta.ru* reported that Wagner Group had captured a soldier from the Ukrainian armed forces who revealed Ukraine’s plan of sabotaging the three Russian border regions. Ukraine had planned to send saboteurs and

reconnaissance groups to the Kursk, Bryansk and Belgorod regions to infiltrate and attack civilian infrastructures.

On 07 November, Russia's Federal Security Service (FSB) arrested nine saboteurs of Ukraine's Security Service (SBU) who were planning to attack employees from the Kherson region. The terrorist group was discovered to have grenades, three improvised explosive devices (IEDs), electric detonators, small arms and five kilograms of plastids. The FSB officers detained the weaponry and also neutralized a car bomb. The captured SBU agents were sent to a pre-trial detention centre.

The West View: Responses from the US and Europe

On 07 November, the London-based think tank, Royal United Services Institute (Rusi), warned the West of being complacent in providing air defence systems to Ukraine. According to Rusi, the West are cautious of providing air defence systems to Ukraine lest it might provoke Russia's President, Vladimir Putin, to take drastic measures in the ongoing war. Rusi said that to avoid the same bombing technique Russia used in Syria, turning cities into rubbles with a devastating effect, Ukraine needs more air power and air defence systems to protect the Ukrainian skies. Ukraine has been using its limited air defence to protect against the Iranian Shaheed-136 drones and missiles that Russia sends. To gain superiority in air battles, Rusi advised the West to lend fighter jets and air defence systems to Ukraine.

On 07 November, the UK's Defence Ministry's Intelligence update stated that Russia was failing in aerial warfare against Ukraine. According to the report, Russia has lost 278 aircraft in Ukraine. The Defence Ministry has noted that Russia's lack of air superiority stems from poor training, loss of experienced pilots and heightened risks of conducting close air support in dense air defence zones. Russia also does not have the capacity to replace aircraft losses in a short period.

On 07 November, Hungary denied its support to Ukraine by blocking the joint raised fund by the EU. The issue with the EU

withholding Hungary's recovery funds due to a rule-of-law dispute has made it oppose any joint funding for a non-EU member. The joint funding of EUR 18 billion to Ukraine for 2023 as an aid package will be proposed on 09 November. However, to raise the fund, the EU need the unanimous support of all 27 member states. Hungary is facing a deadline of 22 November to comply with the EU requirements of the rule of law to get its recovery fund. However, Hungary has been withholding its vote for funding Ukraine in 2023.

The Global Fallouts: Implications of the Ukraine war

On 07 November, Japan's Foreign Affairs Ministry's Director-General of the European Affairs Bureau, Masashi Nakagome and Ukraine's First Deputy Foreign Minister, Emine Dzhaparova, discussed strengthening Japan's support for Ukraine. Nakagome said supporting Ukraine will be the main priority during Japan's G7 presidency in 2023. Japan will continue to provide humanitarian assistance and financial aid to Ukraine in the ongoing war. It will also toughen its sanctions against Russia for invading Ukraine.

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War in Ukraine: Day 255 & 256

War on the Ground:

On 06 November, at Kyiv City State Administration, the Municipal Security Department's Director, Roman Tkachuk, announced that everything was under control in Ukraine's capital and the rumours of mass evacuation were misinformation spread by the media. Tkachuk said that the Kyiv government has been preparing for every possible scenario, including supply disruption of water, heating materials and long-term blackouts due to the constant attacks from the Russian forces. 100 heating points in every district are planned to be set up in case of emergency. The heating points contain necessary things like heating, lighting, bathroom, canteens, rest spots, warm clothes and blankets, power generators and hot-air cannons. He again emphasized that Kyiv's three million population has no reason to evacuate from the city and requested the media not to spread misinformation.

On 06 November, Ukraine's Prime Minister, Denys Shmyhal, shared the weekly government discussion about the 2023 budget, energy for winter, the eRobota program, and four months of grain initiative on Facebook. According to the report, 90 per cent of all taxes in 2023 will be directed to Ukraine's Armed Forces and national security, amounting to UAH 1.1 trillion, UAH 450 billion for social programs and pensions, UAH 176 billion for healthcare and UAH 156 billion for education. Ukraine is looking at a deficit of more than 20 per cent of its GDP, which will be fulfilled with the support of its international allies. Ukraine also has enough energy to survive the winter and will receive generators from other countries to ensure stable power supply. The report also discussed continuing the grain initiative with the UN, Turkey and other countries following its functioning for four months and helping around 43 countries with their food security.

On 06 November, Ukraine's Defence Ministry's Main Directorate of Intelligence reported that the Russian troops that arrived in Belarus had been living in terrible conditions. The group, mostly consisting of partially mobilized citizens, has been plagued with a large-scale outbreak of diseases such as bronchitis, sore throat, pneumonia, asthma exacerbation, and gastrointestinal tract infections. The lack of proper sanitary conditions and the availability of doctors have worsened the situation. According to the report, a new set of doctors will be sent to the Russian troops in Belarus.

The Moscow View: Claims by Russia

On 07 November, *TASS* reported that Russia's Ambassador to the UN, Dmitry Polyansky, said to the *Izvestiya* newspaper that the international organization promised to lift sanctions on Russian food export by the grain deal. Polyansky also said that Russia would assess the efficiency of the deal and placed a deadline of 18 November for the UN to honour its promise of lifting the restrictions.

On 06 November, *Lenta.ru* reported that Kyiv was preparing to begin the evacuation of its three million citizens. According to *Lenta.ru*, the complete evacuation of Kyiv was due to the fear of a total blackout and scarcity of water supply. The statements from *Lenta.ru* are completely contradictory to the statements given by the official website of the Kyiv city government. The evacuation was the result of Russian attacks on Kyiv's critical infrastructures. Russia's President, Vladimir Putin, said that the attacks on Kyiv were retaliation to Ukraine's attack on Sevastopol.

On 06 November, *Lenta.ru* reported that Odesa witnessed an explosion on one of the beaches due to an anchor mine being blown up by sappers. The report stated that the explosion in the coastal region was contained by the defence forces, and the threat was eliminated.

The West View: Responses from the US and Europe

On 06 November, *Reuters* reported that Ukraine's Armed Forces had attacked the Russian-controlled Nova Kakhovka dam with missiles. Quoting *TASS*, *Reuters* wrote that the Ukraine-owned, US-made HIMARS missile system had hit the dam's lock, thereby damaging it. There has not been conclusive evidence pointing to the allegations of the state-owned Russian newspaper *TASS* report.

On 06 November, the UK's Defence Ministry's intelligence update reported that another high-ranking Russian military commander was replaced. Major General Alexander Linkov replaced Colonel General Alexander Lapin as the commander of Russia's Central Military District due to his poor performance in the war. He was criticized by Chechen leader Ramzan Kadyrov and Wagner head Yevgeny Prigozhin. The Defence Ministry noticed a pattern of blaming the senior officials for the failure on the battlefield in Ukraine as the Russian military fired a series of officials. It was noted that the dismissals were used as a technique to deflect blame from the Russian regime for their failures.

On 04 November, the US Defence Department announced USD 400 million in aid to Ukraine in refurbishing HAWK air defence systems, 45 T-72B tanks with advanced optics, communication and armour packages. Additionally, 1,100 Phoenix Ghost tactical unmanned aerial systems, 40 armoured riverine boats, refurbished 250 M-1117 armoured security vehicles, tactical secure communication systems, surveillance systems, and funding for training, maintenance and sustainment. The refurbished equipment is part of a trilateral package with the Netherlands, the Czech Republic and the US to Ukraine.

On 04 October, Switzerland's government promised to help the Odesa region to restore infrastructure damaged by Russian missiles. The agreement was reached between Switzerland's Ambassador to Ukraine, Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Claude Wild, and the Head of the Odesa Regional Military Administration, Maksym Marchenko. The Swiss government pledged to allocate CHF 100 million in aid to Ukraine

concerning projects focused on restoring energy infrastructure for winter.

The Global Fallout: Implications of the Ukraine war

On 05 November, Japan's Prime Minister Fumio Kishida and the UK's Prime Minister Rishi Sunak held phone talks discussing bilateral cooperation amid security concerns over the war in Ukraine, China and North Korea. They also discussed increasing their support to Ukraine and agreed to enforce stricter sanctions against Russia.

On 05 November, Iran's Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian acknowledged his country supplying drones to Russia for the first time. He insisted that the transaction of drones had happened prior to Russia invading Ukraine on 24 February 2022. Amirabdollahian said, "We have a limited number of drones to Russia months before the Ukraine war," after a meeting in Tehran. It was the first time Iran had acknowledged giving drones to Russia after denying the allegations up to the present.

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War in Ukraine: Day 254

War on the Ground:

On 04 December, Russia attacked one of the DTEK Energo power plants with rockets, damaging the energy infrastructure. The attack was the 12th one to befall DTEK Energo enterprises. Preliminary information showed no casualties due to the shelling. Only important employees are made to work at the energy facilities to maintain the operation of the power plants.

On 04 November, Ukraine's Defence Ministry's Main Directorate of Intelligence (GUR) reported that concluded contracts of the arms trade between Russia and Iran have been confirmed. According to a GUR representative, Andriy Yusov, Defence Ministry has only the information on the contract conclusion of weapons supply from Iran to Russia. Not only Iran had supplied Russia with a batch of 1000 units of missiles but also various weapons such as 200 drones in a batch. The GUR has no confirmation of the arrival of Iranian weapons in Russia.

The Moscow View: Claims by Russia

On 04 December, TASS reported that the Kherson Region Deputy Governor Kirill Stremousov declared a 24 hours curfew in Kherson city. Stremousov said that the curfew was placed to protect the city's residents from Ukraine's attacks. He added: "That is why we once again call on Kherson

residents to leave the city for the left-bank part of the Kherson region and let the military do its job."

On 04 November, Russia's Ambassador to the US Anatoly Antonov said that both Nord Stream pipeline explosions aimed to cut Russian and European energy relations. He said: "The process of the deindustrialization of the European continent is only accelerating. The risks of such a development are obvious. As well as the benefits for the United States, frankly speaking," speculating the US involvement in the explosion.

The West View: Responses from the US and Europe

On 04 November, the Netherlands sent a military package worth EUR 120 million to Ukraine. Out of the EUR 120 million, EUR 45 million will be used to provide T-72 tanks. The Netherlands will work with the US and the Czech Republic to provide 90 modernized and refurbished Czech tanks.

On 04 November, the US Defence Department pledged USD 400 million in military aid to Ukraine under the Ukraine Security Assistance Initiative (USAI). The military assistance package includes funding for refurbishing HAWK air defence missiles, refurbished T-72B tanks, Phoenix Ghost Tactical Unmanned Aerial Systems, Armoured Riverine Boats, refurbished armoured security vehicles, communication and surveillance systems, and training, maintenance and sustainment funds.

The Global Fallouts: Implications of the Ukraine war

On 04 November, the G7 Foreign Ministers condemned Russia for invading Ukraine and Belarus for aiding Russia in its military aggression. The G7 countries' foreign ministers agreed with IAEA's statement on Ukraine preparing a dirty nuclear bomb as misinformation and welcomed its plan to establish a Security and Safety Zone around the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant. The ministers announced imposing further tough economic sanctions on Russia and their solidarity with Ukraine.

On 04 November, the UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres updated the Black Sea Grain Initiative status in an opening remark to the press conference before the Security Council Meeting on Peace Operations. According to Guterres, the Black Sea Grain yielded 10 million metric tonnes of grain shipment through the Black Sea corridor. He said: “the parties should concentrate efforts in two areas: the renewal and full implementation of the Black Sea Grain Initiative; removing the remaining obstacles to the exports of Russian food and fertilizer,” about the resumption of the grain deal.

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War in Ukraine: Day 253

War on the Ground:

On 03 November, Ukrainian nuclear energy company Energoatom said that the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant (NPP) was connected to 20 emergency diesel generators. It added that the generators have fuel to keep them running for 15 days. Energoatom said that due to Russian shelling on 02 November power lines connecting the NPP to Ukraine’s power grid were damaged. It also claimed that Russia which has taken control of the NPP will try to attach it to the Russian power grids. Energoatom said: “In the near future, they (Russia) will try to

repair and connect the communication lines of the ZNPP in the direction of temporarily occupied Crimea and Donbas.”

On 03 November, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy announced the creation of a working group that will draw up proposals to provide support to countries facing an acute food crisis. The group will be chaired by Ukraine’s President’s Office Head Andriy Yermak and will include officials from the President’s Office, the Cabinet Ministers and several state institutions. The group will also include representatives of foreign countries, international organisations and experts. The working group will also monitor the effectiveness of the proposals implemented.

On 03 November, Zelenskyy said that 107 Ukrainians were returned by Russia in the latest Prisoners of War (PoW) exchange. Out of 107 Ukrainians, six were officers and the rest were sergeants and privates. According to Zelenskyy the prisoners were wounded seriously and were receiving treatment for the wounds.

The Moscow View: Claims by Russia

On 03 November, the Russian Defence Ministry said that 107 Russian soldiers were returned to Ukraine as a part of a prisoner swap. According to DPR’s acting Head Denis Pushilin, 65 of the 107 returned soldiers are from DPR and LPR. The soldiers were airlifted to Moscow to receive medical assistance. This is the second such prisoner swap in a week with the first one taking place on 27 October.

On 03 November, Russia’s Security Council Secretary Nikolay Patrushev claimed that the Russian secret service had countered a “terrorist attack” on the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant. Zaporizhzhia regional senior official Vladimir Rogov said that the attack was aimed at leaving Energodar without heating in the winter. Rogov said that a cache filled with explosives was found near the plant and claimed that it was placed there in late February before Russia took control of the plant in March.

The Global Fallouts:

Implications of the Ukraine war

On 03 November, IAEA Director General Rafael Mariano Grossi said that their inspectors had finished their in-field verifications at the request of Ukraine. The officials visited the Institute for Nuclear Research in Kyiv, Eastern Mining and Processing Plant in Zhovti Kody, and Production Association Pivdennyi Machine-Building Plant in Dnipro. Grossi said that: "Our technical and scientific evaluation of the results we have so far did not show any sign of undeclared nuclear activities and materials at these three locations."

On the same day, Grossi said that the Zaporizhzhya Nuclear Power Plant (ZNPP) was disconnected from external electricity and is now connected to emergency diesel generators due to shelling. Grossi also stressed the need for a protection zone around the ZNPP to prevent future such disconnections. He said that the plant was disconnected from its main 750-kilovolt power line and its backup 330-kilovolt power line. He added that the lines were damaged about 50-60 kilometres from the plant and that repair work was underway. Grossi added: "This is an extremely concerning development that again demonstrates the plant's fragile and vulnerable situation."

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War in Ukraine: Day 252

War on the Ground:

On 02 November, Ukraine's Armed Forces' StratCom captured pictures of three MiG-31K supersonic interceptor aircraft, which can carry Kh-47M2 Kinzhal hypersonic missiles stationed at the Machulishchy air base in Belarus. The photographs also revealed numerous missile containers, possibly housing Kinzhal missiles at the air base.

On 02 November, NAEK Energoatom reported in a Telegram post that the estimated costs of damages to the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant (ZNPP) and its infrastructure due to Russian occupation was calculated to be UAH 28,184 million. The damages were estimated following a preliminary analysis from the beginning of the war till 01 November. NAEK Energoatom said that the final loss and damage costs will be calculated after Russia withdraws from ZNPP and a full inventory and inspection of all properties.

The Moscow View: Claims by Russia

On 02 November, TASS reported that the Kherson administration completed evacuating people from the Dnieper River's right bank. All traffic movement such as the use of river boats, tugboats and other river navigation means are restricted to cross the river. The Kherson administration stated that the people were relocated from the right bank due to Ukraine's attack on the Kakhovka hydropower plant resulting in the fear of the Dnieper River flooding the area.

On 02 November, Russia's Deputy Foreign Minister Andrey Rudenko said that Russia has been thinking about creating a protection zone around the ZNPP to protect it from Ukrainian shelling. The Defence Ministry said that the establishment of a safe zone around the ZNPP will protect it from

Ukraine's shelling and prevent hazardous nuclear disaster triggers.

On 02 November, Russia's President Vladimir Putin said at the Security Council meeting that Russia will reserve its right to withdraw from the grain deal unless Ukraine signs a written agreement which will prevent it from using the Black Sea grain corridor for military purposes. According to Putin, Russia would exit the grain agreement if Ukraine uses the grain corridor for military purposes. He added: "I have given instructions to the Defense Ministry to resume our full participation in this endeavour. At the same time, Russia reserves the right to withdraw from these agreements, if these guarantees are violated by Ukraine." Turkey acted as the mediator in the negotiations.

The West View: Responses from the US and Europe

On 02 November, *Business Standard* reported that Spain's Foreign Minister Jose Manuel Albares announced Spain providing humanitarian aid to Ukraine at a joint press briefing with Ukraine's Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba. He announced that Spain will send 30 ambulances and five power generators for medical facilities during his visit to Ukraine.

On 02 November, *Business Standard* reported that the Black Sea grain deal will resume after it was halted due to Russia opposing Ukraine using the deal for military purposes. Following Ukraine's written guarantee to not use the ports assigned for grain export to attack Sevastopol with drones, Russia announced that it would resume its participation in the grain deal. Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan announced the resumption of the grain agreement during a telephone conversation with Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy. The first shipments will be scheduled to African countries, especially Somalia, Djibouti and Sudan.

The Global Fallouts: Implications of the Ukraine war

On 01 November, the UN's Deputy spokesperson Farhan Haq announced the pausing of the grain deal due to Russia's

grievances at the Joint Coordination Centre (JCC) headquarters in Istanbul. Russia had not ruled out the resumption of the deal. The ship movements and inspections have been suspended due to Russia withholding its participation in the grain deal. However, Haq said that the suspension would be temporary and the JCC is working towards resuming the deal.

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War in Ukraine: Day 251

War on the Ground:

On 01 November, Armed Forces of Ukraine Spokesperson Yevhen Silkin said that an alternative attack front from Belarus is unlikely. Silkin said that it will only be possible if Russia strengthens the number of troops stationed in Belarus to at least 50,000. Silkin added: "According to our estimation, by the end of this year, the enemy will not be able to accumulate enough forces and means for a second offensive." Currently, there are around 10,000 mobilized Russian personnel in Belarus out of which only 4,000 are stationed at the Ukraine-Belarus border.

On 31 October, Ukraine's Foreign Ministry said that 12 countries have agreed to provide energy equipment to combat damaged energy infrastructure. Finland, France, Israel, Italy, Lithuania, Germany, Northern Macedonia, Poland, the Republic of Korea, Slovakia, Slovenia, and Spain are the 12 countries which will be delivering the

equipment. The Ministry outlined that the deliveries include different types of generators, heat guns, and automatic switches. Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba said that the first deliveries have arrived in Ukraine and the rest will be delivered shortly.

The Moscow View: Claims by Russia

On 01 November, Russian President Vladimir Putin said that Ukraine should provide “guarantees” saying that it would not use the Black Sea corridor for military purposes. In a telephonic conversation with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, Putin said that unless Ukraine provides these guarantees it would not be participating in the Black Sea grain deal. Russia is also demanding that restrictions imposed on agricultural and fertilizer exports be removed for it to rejoin the deal. The Russian military has also shut down the grain corridor from their side.

On 01 November, Russian Defence Minister Sergey Shoigu stated that over 200,000 recruits are undergoing extensive military training. Shoigu added that 87,000 mobilized personnel have been deployed to the combat zone meeting the 300,000 troops target set by Putin. He said that the recruits were being trained in joint coordination drills where they receive field training, navigation and reconnaissance skills and acquiring signals. Kremlin Press Secretary Dmitry Peskov said that the partial mobilization decree was fully implemented.

On 01 November, Russia’s Zaporizhzhia Region administration official Vladimir Rogov called Ukrainian accusations against Russia on a possible environmental disaster hypocritical. Rogov said: “Ukrainian troops are shelling the region almost on a daily basis, threatening the lives and safety of people, but they keep silent about it while expressing concerns about the fish.” He added that due to the increased attacks by Ukraine, the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant’s energy units were shut down.

On 01 November, Russian State Duma Speaker Vyacheslav Volodin said that the Ukrainian attacks on Russian warships in the

Black Sea have invalidated the Black Sea Grain Deal. Volodin said: “The resumption of the grain deal is impossible as long as the safe corridor is being used for terrorist attacks.” He claimed that using the safe corridor for an attack was “unacceptable” and added that the grain deal cannot remain on old terms and must be reworked.

The West View: Responses from the US and Europe

On 01 January, UK’s Foreign Secretary James Cleverly revealed its GBP 6.35 million Ukraine Cyber Programme which is helping Ukraine protect the government and key national infrastructure from cyber-attacks. Cleverly said that the Programme was established in February but was not publicly revealed to safeguard its operational security. He added: “The UK’s support to Ukraine is not limited to military aid – we are drawing on Britain’s world-leading expertise to support Ukraine’s cyber defences.” Under the programme, the UK has delivered cyber security software and hardware to be used at the frontlines and restricted attackers from accessing key networks. It has also helped Ukraine strengthen their key infrastructure against future attacks.

On 01 January, Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu said that Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan will be talking to both Zelenskyy and Putin to re-start the grain deal. This comes as Erdoğan said he will be working to keep the agreement going as Russia pulled from the deal. Turkey is one of the mediators in the Black Sea Grain deal signed by both Russia and Ukraine.

On 31 October, the US Department of Defence announced that the US will be providing Ukraine with eight National Advanced Surface-to-Air Missile Systems (NASAM). The Department said that two of the NASAMs will be delivered over the next few weeks. It said that Ukrainian soldiers have already been trained to use NASAM. The NASAM will assist Ukraine in defending itself against airborne threats. It also added that it will be providing added ammunition for High Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems (HIMARS), over 1,300 anti-armour systems,

and 500 rounds of 155-millimetre artillery rounds.

On 01 November, the US Department of State Spokesperson Ned Price said that it will be providing USD 47.6 million demining humanitarian assistance to Ukraine. This aid is a part of the USD 91.5 million demining assistance announced by the Department in August. The aid will be awarded to Tetra Tech a California-based company which will help boost Ukraine's capacity to locate and remove landmines and other explosives from civilian areas.

On 01 November, the UK Ministry of Defence said that allegedly two MiG-31K FOXHOUND interceptor jets were parked at the Machulishchi Airfield in Belarus on 17 October. This was determined by satellite imagery which also showed a large canister which relates to the AS-24 KILLJOY air-launched ballistic missile which can be carried by the Mig-31K. The KILLJOY while occasionally launched in the Ukraine war has never been deployed in Belarus before. According to the Ministry, the KILLJOY has a range of 2000 kilometres which gives Russia an advantage when it comes to attacking targets in Ukraine. The Ministry is of the view that this deployment is to send a message to the West and show that Belarus is actively involved in the war.

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War in Ukraine: Day 250

War on the Ground:

On 31 October, Ukraine's Naval Forces of the Armed Forces reported on elimination of Russian infantry fighting vehicles and an ammunition cache. Ukraine's Air Force reported on the launch of 44 cruise missiles launched from the Volgosonsk area and the northern part of the Caspian Sea by Russia on key infrastructure.

On the same day, Kharkiv's Regional Military Administration, Head Oleg Synehubov highlighted how Russia is fortifying its position along the 315 kilometres-shared border by increasing construction underway to build more defence structures.

On 31 October, the Ukraine's Minister of Infrastructure Oleksandr Kubrakov reported that 12-grain ships had left Ukraine ports. Kubrakov said that the 40 ships were examined by 10 inspection teams from Turkey and the UN to continue the Black Sea Grain Initiative. The vessels which left Ukraine contained 40,000 tonnes of grain to Ethiopia. Kubrakov added that four additional vessels inspected in Istanbul have departed to Ukrainian ports. The ships were inspected by delegations of Turkey, Ukraine, and the UN.

The Moscow View: Claims by Russia

On 31 October, Kremlin Spokesman Dmitry Peskov said: "In conditions when Russia speaks about impossibility of guaranteeing safe shipping in indicated areas, such deal certainly can hardly be implemented. It acquires a different nature, much more risky, dangerous and non-guaranteed." He along with the Minister of Agriculture Dmitry Patrushev reiterated Russia's commitment

to helping poor countries. Patrushev said that Russia is ready to compensate for the shortage that rises due to it pulling out of the Grain Deal at their expense. Peskov reiterated the issue of how under the deal the poor countries received only a minor share of the exports and that the majority of it went to Europe.

On 31 October, Russian Defence Ministry spokesman Lieutenant-General Igor Konashenkov reported on the achievements of the Russian Armed Forces in Ukraine. Konashenkov reported that in Kherson the forces destroyed a German Panzerhaubitze 2000 self-propelled artillery gun, five combat armored vehicles, and seven motor vehicles and killed 70 Ukrainian personnel and mercenaries. In the Donetsk region where Russian forces are engaged in active operations, 60 Ukrainian personnel, a tank, two combat armored vehicles and two motor vehicles were eliminated.

Konashenkov reported that the Russian Armed Forces attacked the targets using air-and-sea-based long-range precision weapons and said that all of the intended targets were hit. He also reported that four Ukrainian army ammunition depots were destroyed in Kherson and DPR and eight army command posts were destroyed in the Zaporozhye and Nikolayev Region. Konashenkov reported that the air defence forces had stopped four HIMARS and Olkha rockets and seven HARM anti-radar missiles in the Kherson Region. Lastly, he added that the Forces had shot down 13 Ukrainian unmanned aerial vehicles in LPR, DPR, Kherson and Kharkov regions.

On 31 October, Russia's Chairman of the Arctic Council's Senior Officials Committee Nikolay Korchunov dismissed the claims of US Department of State Counselor Derek Chollet regarding the operation of the Arctic Council. Korchunov said that the Council can operate without Russia groundless as the Council only makes decisions with the consensus of all the member states. He also said that while most projects under the Council are implemented by two-three members, for the larger sustainable development of the Arctic regions all the eight members are required to effectively

make the right decisions. Korchunov reiterated that sustainable development of the region is the main goal of the Russian presidency in the Arctic Council.

The West View: Responses from the US and Europe

On 31 October, the UK Ministry in its intelligence update reported that since mid-October Russia has deployed to the front lines several thousand newly mobilized reservists and the majority of them were ill-equipped to fight. The regular Russian combat units are equipped with 5.45-millimetre AK-74M or AK-12 rifles compared to the 7.62-millimetre AKM. The Ministry of Defence suspects that Russia will have to deploy two types of small arms ammunition to the front lines due to the new integration of reservists. The Ministry said that it will likely complicate Russia's strained logistics system.

On 31 October, AP News reported on the increasing inflation and slowing economy in Europe. It highlights how inflation rates hit a new high in 19 countries whose currency is the euro. Eurostat reported that annual inflation for 2022 was 10.7 per cent which is a revision from the 9.9 per cent projection in September. This is being attributed to the unnatural gas and electricity prices due to the Russia-Ukraine conflict. The hike in gas prices is a result of the Ukraine conflict where Russia slowed down the supply of gas to Europe. This forced the European nations to buy from the US and Qatar where liquefied gas is more expensive. These high prices have also affected the prices of industrial goods like steel and fertiliser making them more expensive or unprofitable to produce. Consumers are spending more on essential necessities like food and fuel and utility bills. Eurostat reported that food, alcohol and tobacco prices have risen by 13.1 per cent and that energy prices increased 41.9 per cent compared to 2021. The highest inflation rates according to Eurostat have been seen in Latvia (21.8 per cent), Lithuania (22 per cent) and Estonia (22.4 per cent). The article looked at how post-pandemic growth projected at 0.8 per cent slipped to 0.2 per cent in July-September 2022.

On 31 October, Norway announced that it will be increasing the Norwegian Armed Forces' readiness. This was announced by Norway's Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Støre. The level of readiness will be shifting from 'normal situation' phase zero to phase one. Gahr Støre added that this change will be in line with the phase in NATO's joint planning framework. The shift is scheduled to happen on 01 November under the guidance of the Norwegian Chief of Defence. The NRK reported that Norway is taking this step-in light of the Nord Stream gas pipeline attacks, the Ukraine war and a supposed increase in Russian intelligence in the country.

The Global Fallouts: Implications of the Ukraine war

On 31 October, the Energy Ministers of Saudi Arabia and UAE backed the OPEC oil cuts at the Abu Dhabi International Petroleum Exhibition and Conference. Saudi Arabia's Energy Minister Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman said that these cuts were not done to support anyone or to take any sides and that: "We don't owe it to anybody but us. It was done for us, by us, for our future, and we need to commit ourselves to that." UAE's Energy Minister Suhail al-Mazrouei reiterated bin Salman's stance and added that the UAE and other OPEC+ members are keen on keeping up the oil supply to meet the requirements of the world but claimed that they are not the only oil producers in the world. al-Mazrouei said that the OPEC members are "only a phone call away if the requirements are there" to increase production but said that this might not be anytime soon.

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EM Short Notes*

By Padmashree Anandhan, Sai Pranav, and Madhura S Mahesh



Source: French Armed Forces Ministry, REUTERS/Gene Blevins, faz.net, REUTERS/Florion Goga, Michael Kappeler/Reuters, Gareth Fuller/PA

BELARUS**Recycling of solid municipal waste increased**

On 14 November, Belarus's Deputy Director of the Operator of Secondary Material Resources Artyom Shkryl reported that solid municipal waste recycling has tripled in the last 10 years. Shkryl reported that the level of usage of solid municipal waste and collection of secondary material resources have increased twice as much when compared to 2010. Shkryl has attributed this increase to an increased responsibility among the public which has led to the formation of a national strategy for managing solid municipal waste and secondary material which is going to be implemented in Belarus. ("Solid municipal waste recycling in Belarus on the rise," *BelTA*, 14 October 2022)

BELGIUM**BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA****Appointed members for the new tripartite Presidency**

On 16 November, Bosnia and Herzegovina got their first women elected along with two other non-ethnonationalist leaders for the tripartite Presidency. The three Presidents, elected as representatives of Bosnia's three main ethnic groups- Bosniaks Serbs and Croats. The three presidents namely Bosniak Denis Bećirović and Bosnian Croat Željko Komšić, from the multi-ethnic centre-left SDP and DF political parties, and Željka Cvijanović from the ethnonationalist Bosnian Serb party SNSD. Cvijanović said that would work at the interest of entities. Bećirović said he would focus on poverty and brain drain. Komšić said NATO membership would be his first priority. This presidency is a complex administration established by the Dayton Peace Accords that ended Bosnia's war 1992-1995. The term period of the Presidency is a four-year term. This presidency will be a complex administration established under the Dayton Peace Accords that ended Bosnia's war 1992-1995. The term period of the

* EM Short Notes are notes published along with Daily Focus on Europe, every evening by the NIAS Europe Monitor team. The short notes provide a brief overview of the latest developments in Europe, and provides the sources from which they are compiled. Visit <https://globalpolitics.in/europe/> to read them every day.

Presidency will be four-year term. ([“Bosnia's new presidency takes office and vows to resolve mounting crises,” Euronews](#), 16 November 2022)

DENMARK

Martin Lidegaard proposes a coalition government with national compromise parties

On 08 November, Denmark's Social Liberal party proposed that the government that will be formed should have parties that agreed on the national compromise political agreement that was signed in 2022 March. The national compromise was signed between Social Democrats, Social Liberals, Socialist People's Party (SF), Liberal (Venstre) and Conservative parties to secure extra defence spending after Russia invaded Ukraine on 24 February. The Social Liberals changed their leader to Martin Lidegaard who has changed the opinion of the party to view a matter with an open mind. Prior to the election, Social Liberal party refused to support the government's plan to open an asylum facility in Rwanda. However, since Lidegaard took up the leadership, the party has softened its stance. ([“Denmark's Social Liberal party calls for ‘national compromise’ government,” THE LOCAL dk](#), 08 November 2022)

Negotiations delay the formation of a new government

On 11 November, the Social Democratic party announced that the negotiations for forming a coalition government would extend till 24 November. The negotiation is between the parliamentary parties and North Atlantic mandate holders. The negotiation is led by Social Democrats' acting Prime Minister, Mette Fredriksen. The initial discussion is on major political and social agendas. The discussion for next week entails the economy, reforms and the answer to tackling inflation. The week of 21 November will see a discussion on foreign and security policy and bilateral meetings with the four MPs of the Faroe Islands and Greenland. Fredriksen also wants to find an agreement on the 2024 budget, as the protracted negotiation following the election has resulted in a temporary state expenditure plan. ([“No new Danish](#)

[government expected for ‘at least two weeks’,” THE LOCAL dk](#), 11 November 2022)

FINLAND

Survey by Foreign Ministry finds 51 per cent of Russians show positive attitude towards Finland

On 17 November, Finland's Foreign Ministry released its survey result on Russian impression about Finland. The 2022 survey resulted indicated a positive attitude amongst 51 per cent adult Russian on Finland, while 22 per cent were observed to have a negative attitude. Comparing with the 2021, the per cent has reduced by 17 per cent for the positive attitude category and increase in the negative attitude by 17 per cent. Few reasons behind the positive attitude is Finland seen as a place for “high standard of living, freedom and democracy.” Its nature, culture, arts, tourism and shopping have added to the share. Whereas the increase in negative attitude was due to Finland's decision to join the NATO, fear of sanction threatening their relations and limited travel opportunities due to COVID-19. ([“Regular Foreign Ministry survey: more than half of Russians positive towards Finland,” valtioneuvosto.fi](#), 17 November 2022)

IMF projects a grim view on Finland's economy

On 17 November, Finland's Ministry of Finance published IMF's review on its economic where the IMF projected the deteriorating economic outlook and increasing fiscal pressures for Finland. The reason behind the economic pressure is mainly due to improving security measures and steps taken by the government to protect households from inflation. It recommended the reversal of fiscal impulse through energy support measures and structural reforms to reflect in long-term economic growth. In a statement IMF suggests: “The tightening of global financial conditions will put pressure on Finland's large and interconnected financial system with high exposure to household indebtedness, which calls for further strengthening banks' liquidity buffers, improving the macro-prudential toolkit,

and—when circumstances allow—reinstating capital buffers.” ([“IMF presented its review of the Finnish economy,” valtioneuvosto.fi](#), 17 November 2022; [“Finland: Staff Concluding Statement of the 2022 Article IV Mission,” suomenpankki.fi](#), 17 November 2022)

Finland approves resolution to renew its counter terrorism strategy

On 17 November, Finland’s Ministry of the Interior adopted a resolution on the National Counter-Terrorism Strategy for 2022–2025. Although there has not been a significant new provision, the strategy is viewed important due to the changing security scenario. The aim of the Strategy is enforcing the existing cooperation model and bring new approaches. According to the Finnish Security and Intelligence Service’s assessment, Finland stands at the “Second level, or ‘elevated’, on the four-tier scale,” which remains unchanged since 2017. The Strategy outlines Finland’s counter terrorism activities, where it strives cooperation across global and the EU. It involves “prevention of the violent radicalisation,” committed to NATO’s framework in counter terrorism, and extremism. ([“Government resolution guides Finland’s counter-terrorism activities,” valtioneuvosto.fi](#), 17 November 2022)

Construction of a 300-megawatt hydrogen plant in Kokkola

On 15 November, Finland’s Åland-based energy company, Flexens, announced at a press conference its plans to build a 300-megawatt hydrogen plant in Kokkola in Central Ostrobothnia. The plant is aimed to be constructed in the Kokkola Industrial Park, an important location for Finland’s chemical production industry. Hydrogen fuels are obtained by using electrolysis on the water to separate hydrogen and oxygen. The hydrogen can also be processed into green ammonia, used as agricultural fertilizers and fuel for marine engines. Kokkola is located on Finland’s west coast, a suitable place for the energy-intensive electrolysis process due to the place being a hub for wind energy. The cost of the hydrogen plant is EUR 500 million and will

be functional only in 2027. A nationwide hydrogen network developed by Gasgrid Finland is planned to deliver green energy throughout the country by 2030. ([“Åland firm announces plans for Kokkola hydrogen plant,” yle.fi](#), 15 November 2022)

Water pipelines break in Helsinki results in floods

On 13 November, Helsinki Region Environmental Services Authority (HSY), the city’s authority that provides water and waste management services, announced that several pipes across the city broke, resulting in water entering driveways, properties, parking garages and business premises. A total of five pipe breaks were reported. The streets of pipe breaks were Fleminginkatu, Boulevard, Hameentie, Rautammintie and Violankatu. The trunk line in Kallio, where the main pipeline is located, is said to have been broken due to a technical fault. The pipeline network is old and has been preserved well until the present. The first leak was reported on Fleminginkatu street. The Helsinki Road Transport Agency had to be closed in other parts of the city due to the waters from broken pipelines. Helsinki Regional Transport (HSL) expects the situation to continue till 14 November night. (Jaakko Muilu, Ilmo Ilkka and Milla Palkoaho, [“The main line broke in Kallio on Sunday: Water flooded the city, collapsed streets,” Helsingin Sanomat](#), 13 November 2022)

Ministry of Foreign Affairs grants EUR 13.6 billion as humanitarian aid

On 10 November, Finland pledged to grant EUR 13.6 billion in humanitarian assistance to vulnerable people in crisis. Finland is granting support to World Food Programme (WFP) to alleviate food insecurity in Afghanistan, to the UN Refugee Agency (UNCHR) to protect Rohingya and deal with their refugee crisis in Myanmar and Bangladesh, to the ICRC to restore damaged water supply facilities in Syria, to the UN Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) for Palestine Refugees in the near east and Lebanon, and to the UN’s Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) which enables to respond to an underfunded crisis

quickly. The total humanitarian aid Finland granted in 2022 amounts to EUR 120 million. ("Finland to grant humanitarian assistance to protracted crises," *valtioneuvosto.fi*, 10 November 2022))

Finland government in clash with the EU's nature restoration laws

On 09 November, Finland's government responded to the interpellation submitted by the opposition parties regarding the nature restoration law proposed by the European Commission. According to the government, the nature restoration law proposal costs Finland around EUR 930 million. The proposal undermines the Finnish forest policy and asks it to spend more than necessary for biodiversity and environment conservation. Finland is committed to preserving its environment on its own terms. The coalition government agreed that the revised response should be that the law should reduce the cost significantly or let the member states have freedom and flexibility in restoration measures. Many opponents argued that Finland should have taken a negative stance from the beginning of the proposal's introduction. ("Marin: Finland can vote against restoration law unless its interests are protected," *Helsinki Times*, 10 November 2022))

Divide over the Sami Parliamentary Act amongst the coalition government

On 10 November, Finland's Centre party of the coalition government opposed the Sami Parliamentary Act which was introduced by Prime Minister Sanna Marin introduced in the parliament. The law caused division within the government. The Sami Assembly Act does not specify who can vote and who can run for office in the Sami self-governing body. The Act raises an issue of non-Sami people overtaking the seats in the Sami self-governing body and how it can affect the self-government of municipalities of Northern Lapland. The Center's Lapland MP Markus Lohi requested an amendment to the Sami Assembly Act as the current version might lead to a human rights issue. (Hannu Tikka, Eelis Ryttonen and Linda Tammela, "The government was torn apart

by an open dispute over the Sámi parliamentary law - Markus Lohi of the center, who opposes the bill: "This is a human rights issue," *yle.fi*, 10 November 2022))

FRANCE

France: National strategic review to focus on boosting the defence

On 09 November, the Secretariat-General for National Defense and Security (SGDSN) published its defence strategy report focusing on possible security threats in the Indo-Pacific, China, and 2030 way forward for France's defence. In the report, Russia is seen as an actor undermining the European security and its growing relations with China is observed as "strategic convergence." In terms of China, its aim to overtake the US as super power and weaken West's leadership in the international fora remains the goal. As per the report China's military made France pursue an assertive strategy in the Indo-Pacific, African states and Taiwan Strait. The defence strategy sets the standard to increase the budget of France's defence in 2023-24 with more investments towards hybrid strategies, more cooperation with the UK, and adaptation to Europe's maritime system.

HUNGARY

New energy ministry to be set up

On 14 November, the Hungarian government announced a cabinet reshuffle after Minister of Technology and Industry Laszlo Palkovics resigned over differences with regard to the green energy policy. Prime Minister Viktor Orban's Chief of Staff Gergely Gulyas reported that a new energy ministry will be set up in December to look into the current energy crisis and energy security. The ministry will be headed by Csaba Lantos, former deputy head of the Hungarian bank OTP. ("Hungary Government Reshuffled Over Energy Policy," *Barron's*, 14 November 2022))

ITALY

Meloni's government introduces EUR 35 million spending cuts and tax raises in new budget

On 22 November, Italian Prime Minister

Giorgia Meloni signed the new budget which entails a EUR 35 billion spending plan and fiscal policies that intend to "...avoid a collision course with Brussels." Meloni said that the increased spending plan would encourage a faster recovery in the current quarter and the first quarter of the next year. The proposed budget will now be scrutinised by the Parliament who has to approve it before January 2023. With an extension of the single tax rate of 15 per cent from an annual income of EUR 65,000 to EUR 85,000 and cutting VAT on necessities by half, she has also prioritised the capping of increasing energy prices and providing a "citizen's income" poverty relief scheme as part of the plans. Meloni said: "I consider it a courageous and coherent budget, courageous in the sense that it bets on the future." The opposition has criticised the budget for its inadequacy to combat inflation and added that the tax cuts will hit the poor the hardest calling it "inhuman." ("Italy PM Meloni's new budget proposal more EU-friendly than expected," *Euronews*, 22 November 2022; "Italy's Meloni hails "courageous" budget, opposition plans protests," *Reuters*, 22 November 2023)

Meloni replaces Draghi's reforms after forming the government

On 31 October, Italy's new Prime Minister, Giorgia Meloni, changed the reforms that the previous government of Mario Draghi introduced. She called Draghi, and Giuseppe Conte had taken an ideological approach with no scientific evidence. She scrapped the rule that health workers should have mandatory vaccines and reinstated them to their job. Her opposition, the centre-left, criticized her for rewarding anti-vaxxers as her first reform. She delayed Draghi's justice front reform, stating that the measure would paralyze Italy's judicial system. She said that the faster judicial proceeding reform did not have the resources or the instrument to make them work, resulting in the collapse of Italy's judicial system. Her opposition criticized her for delaying the process, saying that the reform would determine Italy obtaining the EU's post-pandemic fund. However, Italy's union of judges and prosecutors welcomed the postponement stating that they needed

time to reorganize court proceedings. (Angelo Amante and Emilio Parodi, "Italy delays EU-required justice reform, scraps vaccine mandate for medics," *Reuters*, 31 October 2021)

LATVIA

Proposes to replace Russian with Official EU languages in Latvian schools

On 21 November, BNN reported that Latvia's Ministry of Education and Science plans to replace the Russian language with an EU language in schools starting from 2026-27 school years. Russian is not an EU language, and Latvia has no interstate agreements to have the language at schools. The Ministry said that Latvia could integrate the European education system and promote teaching official EU languages, resulting in the students having wider employment opportunities in the EU and outside its borders. The demand for the EU languages reduced the use of Russian falls. The opinions of the people changed due to Russia's invasion of Ukraine. The Ministry will develop amendments to the primary education system to promote EU languages. ("Latvian Ministry of Education proposes replacing Russian language with EU languages in schools," *bnn-news.com*, 21 November 2022)

Latvia celebrates 104 years of Independence

On 18 November, Latvia celebrated 104 since the proclamation of independence on 18 November 1918. The day was celebrated with various festivities across the country starting with an ecumenical service in the Riga Cathedral which was followed by a flower-laying ceremony at the Freedom Monument. A military parade also took place which included the National Armed Forces, law enforcement agencies and foreign allies like Canada. The Latvian President addressed the Latvian diaspora around the world and said: "It is a day when we think about Latvia more, on [a] much deeper level... there is no other one like Latvia, no better place for us," and added: "Latvia is becoming more Latvian." ("Latvia marks 104 years since the proclamation of independence," 18 November 2022)

Demographic swing continues in Latvia

On 11 November, The Central Statistical Bureau of Latvia published its provisional data on its population, post covid the death rate in Latvia has come down significantly, yet the country's population is on decline. There have been about 22,498 deaths registered from January to September, the registered number of births in the same period is 12,221. The birth rate is 8.2 per cent lesser than that of 2021 during the same time. Latvia had a population of 1.89 million in 2020, the population in 2021 was 1.87 million, down by 1.02 per cent in one year's time. Latvia's population is equivalent to 0.02 per cent of the total world population. One of the reasons behind the declining population is that the people from Latvia go to other affluent countries in EU to work there leaving this Baltic country with decreasing population, Latvia has a high mortality rate which adds years of life in the general population. Disregarding the drop in birth rate, mortality remains high and is almost double the birth rate. ("Latvia's worrying demographic trends continue", *ENG.LSM.lv*, 11 November 2022)

MOLDOVA

Fresh anti-government protests emerge amid energy crisis

On 13 November, anti-government protests emerged in Chisinau amid the winter energy crisis and increasing inflation. The protestors called for the resignation of Moldova's President Maia Sandu over the government's supposed failure in handling the winter energy crisis. The shortage in energy supply comes after Russia reduced its gas supply to the country over its pro-western stance in the Ukraine conflict. ("Moldova anti-govt protesters return amid energy crisis", *ABC News*, 14 November 2022)

MONTENEGRO

Protesters gather calling for an early election

On 17 November, protesters hit the streets of Podgorica calling for early elections and the withdrawal of a law that restricted presidential powers. The protests were backed by the *Ima nas* (We are numerous)

movement which is supported by President Milo Djukanovic's Democratic Party of Socialists (DPS) and its allies. The protestors also advocated for the reconstitution of Montenegro's constitutional court which is not functioning as MPs are not able to come to a consensus. ("Djukanovic supporters rally in Montenegro calling for early election", *EURACTIV*, 18 November 2022)

NORWAY

Lula's victory resumes Norway's assistance in Amazon rainforest conservation

On 31 October, *THE LOCAL no* reported on Norway's Environment Minister Espen Barth Eide announcement on resumption of collaboration of Norway with Brazil's government to save the Amazon rainforest from deforestation. Norway would again send the Amazon protection subsidies that were paused due to the far-right Brazilian leader, Jair Bolsonaro, becoming the country's President in 2019. In the recent election, former President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva won, making Norway reopen its friendly relations with Brazil. Bolsonaro encouraged deforestation of the Amazon rainforest, increasing it by 70 per cent. Norway has been a major supporter of the conservation of the Amazon forest. The reelected Lula promised to fight against Brazil's climate crisis and deforestation, making Norway resume its aid to the South American country. ("Norway to resume aid halted to Brazil over deforestation", *THE LOCAL no*, 31 October 2022)

SPAIN

Pedro Sanchez changes the crime of sedition in the penal code to appease the Catalonians

On 11 November, Spain's coalition government under Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez proposed to replace the sedition law, which had been in Spain's penal code since 1822. The crime of sedition has put a lot of Catalin in prison. The move to change the bill that reclassifies sedition into "aggravated public disorder" sought to appease the people of the northeastern region of Catalonia following the conflict that stemmed from the failed independence

attempt in 2017. Sanchez mainly looks to win the favour of Catalonia's leftist ERC party to pass the 2023 budget in the parliamentary. The removal of the crime of sedition would allow Catalonians to vote in a referendum without any repressions. (["In nod to Catalonia, Spain's PM seeks to replace sedition in penal code," Reuters](#), 11 November 2022)

SWEDEN

The Riksbank faces inflation pressure despite its slow pace

On 15 November, Sweden's central bank, the Riksbank, faced underlying price pressure due to inflation. The Riksbank's Deputy Governor, Martin Floden, said the inflation rate was higher than the bank predicted. There has been a slowdown in inflation in Sweden due to a reduction in energy prices. The electricity prices decreased by 24 per cent between September and October. The consumer price index went down from 9.7 per cent in September to 9.3 per cent in October. However, Floden added that the central bank should deal with the underlying inflation pressure. (["Swedish inflation slows as energy prices drop," THE LOCAL se](#), 15 November 2022; ["Swedish c.bank's Floden: we need to deal with the core inflation pressure," Reuters](#), 15 November 2022)

THE CZECH REPUBLIC

Demand for brown coal rises

On 18 November, *AP News* reported that the Czech Republic is seeing a rise in demand for brown coal. Compared to 2021, in the first nine months of 2022, the demand for coal rose by 35 per cent due to the rising energy crisis triggered by the Russia-Ukraine crisis. In Ostrava, part of the Upper Silesian Coal Basin, coal factories have piles of coal ready for purchase as it is now the cheapest source of fuel to power homes during winter. Adding to this increase in demand is the decision of the Czech government to completely halt mining around Ostrava in order to safeguard energy supplies amid increasing demand for energy supply. This rise in demand for coal in the Czech Republic is affecting its climate goals and increasing pollution in the northeastern region of the Czech Republic.

(["High energy prices lead to coal revival in Czech Republic," AP News](#), 18 November 2022)

THE UK

New Northern Ireland Bill to provide time for executive formations and revise MLA salaries

On 21 November, the UK introduced the Northern Ireland (Executive Formation etc) Bill to extend the period of Executive formation and to delegate the authorisation of MLA salaries to the Secretary of the State. The bill extends the formation by six weeks of 08 December to allow the Northern Ireland (NI) parties to come together to form a government along with an additional provision to extend for a further six weeks up to 19 December. It also proposed to amend MLA salaries, who have been observed to drawing salaries without performing the duties creating public dissatisfaction. Through the bill the Secretary of the State will be able to reduce the salary and held in maintaining the public service delivery. The bill was aimed to provide time for Executive formation to avoid another election. (["Northern Ireland \(Executive Formation etc\) Bill Introduced in Parliament," gov.uk](#), 21 November 2022)

Bank of England highlights the need to regulate crypto amid the FTX collapse

On 21 November, the Bank of England emphasised the need to regulate cryptocurrency. Amid the FTX collapse, the Bank of England's Deputy Governor Jon Cunliffe reiterated the need for it to be brought into a regulatory framework and added that tighter controls need to be introduced to prevent future consequences if it depreciates and creates a "crypto shock." Cunliffe said that the Bank of England and the Treasury Ministry are looking into new financial services and market laws to regulate cryptocurrency and added that they are looking to introduce a digital pound sometime in the future. (["FTX collapse shows need to regulate crypto, says Bank of England," Reuters](#), 21 November 2022)

UK Met police arrests 1,700 to reduce the criminal activities

On 17 November, UK's Metropolitan Police

reported on arresting 1,700 suspects involved in criminal activities, drug dealing and sex offences in past six weeks. The move comes after new Commissioner Sir Mark Rowley reported the drug gangs to be one of the main focus of the Met police as part of its bring down “high-risk and high-impact offenders.” On the same lines, UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak expressed his wish to target the criminals and jail more offenders to make streets safe for women. He added: “We should charge more people and reduce crime and have them in jail.” (Andrew Woodcock, [“Sunak says he wants more people in jail to make streets safer for women,” independent.co.uk](#), 18 November 2022; Laura Parnaby, [“Almost 1,700 suspects, including drug dealers, arrested over six weeks by Met,” independent.co.uk](#), 18 November 2022)

MI5 names Russia, China, and Iran as major challengers to UK’s security

On 16 November, MI5 General Ken McCallum presented MI5’s annual threat update for 2022. McCallum in his speech highlighted how continued terror threats and actions of Russia, China, and Iran are the major challenges to the UK’s security. On Russia, McCallum highlighted how the continued Ukraine conflict projected a grim future for international security and how UK and other countries have responded through expulsion of over 400 covert spies. Second, China seen as the most “games-changing” challenge to the UK according to MI5. He reported how its influence in local politics, economy and debt financing is helping manipulate the natives internationally, indicating the recent violence in Manchester. On Iran, He referred it as the “state actor which most frequently crosses into terrorism.” For the UK Iran’s “aggressive” intelligence service poses a direct threat with its cyber-attacks and threats to UK-based individuals who are considered enemies of the state. (“[Director General Ken McCallum gives annual threat update,” mi5.gov.uk](#), 16 November 2022)

Environment Ministry pledges GBP 50 million towards protection of biodiversity

On 16 November, UK’s Environment

Secretary Therese Coffey asked for “renewed global action” on nature and set forth an “ambitious” path for the same at COP’s Biodiversity Day. Coffey announced GBP 54 million in funds towards the protection of biodiversity. She reiterated that consistent action is required from the public and private sectors, and mentioned that there is a financing gap of USD 700 billion. Coffey emphasised that half of the world’s GDP is dependent on nature and that the COP27 Presidency wants to protect 30 per cent of land and ocean by 2030. She said: “Security, livelihoods and productivity depend on the global web of life,” and that natural habitats need robust protection. (“[Environment Secretary calls for action to protect and restore nature at COP27,” gov.uk](#), 16 November 2022)

TURKEY

Kurdish groups deny involvement in Istanbul blast

On 14 November, the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) and its offshoot Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) denied any involvement in the blast that rocked Istanbul on 13 November. This comes as Turkey accused the Syrian Kurdish YPG militia to be behind that attack. Turkish police have arrested a Syrian woman who has confessed to being behind the attack and additional 46 people have been detained for questioning. The Syrian woman is allegedly a PKK-trained “special intelligence officer” who entered Turkey from the Syrian-Turkish border town of Afrin. (“[Istanbul blast: Kurdish groups deny involvement as Turkey detains dozens over ‘terror attack,’” Euronews](#), 15 November 2022)

Istanbul explosion kills six; alleged perpetrator arrested

On 13 November, an explosion rocked Istiklal Avenue, Istanbul killing six people and 81 others wounded. The attack took place on a crowded street and one of the dead was a government ministry worker and his daughter. Turkish President Recep Tayyip called the attack vile and said: “Efforts to defeat Turkey and the Turkish people through terrorism will fail today just as they did yesterday and as they will

tomorrow." While nobody has claimed responsibility for the explosion, Interior Minister Suleyman Soyulu on 14 November reported that the alleged perpetrator was arrested saying: "A little while ago, the person who left the bomb was detained by our Istanbul Police Department teams. According to our findings, the PKK terrorist organisation is responsible." PKK or Kurdistan Worker's Party is a Turkish designated terrorist organisation and has been responsible for a series of attacks in Istanbul and Turkey in 2015 and 2016. ("Six dead in Istanbul blast, presumed perpetrator arrested," *EURACTIV*, 14 November 2022; "Istanbul explosion: Suspect arrested after 'vile attack'," *Deutsche Welle*, 14 November 2022)

REGIONAL

European Parliament introduces new policies for infrastructure protection

On 22 November, the European Parliament passed new policies addressing essential infrastructure protection. It was agreed by the European Council to increase the protection of essential infrastructure. The policy includes cross-border communication, new national resilience strategies and increased transparency between critical actors and national authorities. It will be applicable to 11 essential sectors such as energy, transport, banking, financial market infrastructure, digital infrastructure, drinking water and wastewater, food, health, public administration, and space. ("MEPs approve new rules to protect essential infrastructure," *europarl.europa.eu*, 22 November 2022)

European parliament decision to increase funds for ESA raises concern

On 22 November, the European Parliament increased funding for space by 25 per cent over the next three years. The European Space Agency (ESA) submitted a request to increase its budget from EUR 14.5 billion to EUR 18.5 billion for 2023-2025. This request was made to keep Europe in the Space sector amid increasing investments by the US and China. Currently, France, Germany and the UK launching small

launchers have voiced complaints about the expensive materials acquired by the ESA to build small launchers. The increase in funding will ensure that the materials are acquired at a sustainable price and improve the scope of space technology in Europe. ("Europe ministers tackle sharp increase in space funding," *Reuters*, 23 November 2022)

Finland, Norway and Sweden sign agreement to increase defence cooperation

On 22 November, the Defence Ministers of Finland, Norway and Sweden signed a trilateral defence cooperation agreement. This new trilateral Statement of Intent (SOI) aims to increase defence cooperation between the three countries and boost operations planning in Finland, Sweden and Norway. The SOI supports other agreements between Nordic countries such as the Nordic defence cooperation (NORDEFECO). The agreement outlines four points of cooperation which are, first conducting discussions and exercises based on common security concerns and national requirements. Second, discuss national operations plans between Finland, Norway and Sweden in common areas of concern. Third, undertake common operations planning in areas of mutual interest and fourth hold combined or coordinated military operations. ("Defence Ministers of Finland, Norway and Sweden signed an updated trilateral Statement of Intent," *defmin.fi*, 22 November 2022)

France, Germany and Romania gather to aid Moldova's economic crisis

On 21 November, France hosted a conference to assist Moldova with international aid amidst the refugee crisis, power blackouts, and security threats from the neighbouring Ukraine war. France, Germany, and Romania created the "International Support Platform for Moldova" initiative, which raised millions of euros at Berlin and Bucharest conferences. Russia lowering Moldova's gas supply, its lack of a gas storage facility and the halt in electricity imports from Ukraine due to damage to Ukrainian infrastructure have resulted in Moldova's economic woes.

Moldova, an EU candidate, has the support of the bloc's member states in reforming its economy. Around 45 delegates representing the US, the EU and other international organizations will be at France's conference. (["International aid conference aims to help Moldova weather energy crisis and neighbouring war," euronews](#), 21 November 2022)

EU still hesitant on the state of the Rule of Law in Hungary

On 21 November, the EU Justice Commissioner Didier Reynders said that the EU is still unsure about the state of the Rule of Law in Hungary. According to Reynders, the European Commission is open to talks with Hungary and added that these talks will help Hungary implement proposed reform measures effectively. The EU has expressed concerns with regard to the independence of the Hungarian judiciary from political influence and had given Hungary time till 19 November to adopt 17 measures to ensure the same. According to Hungary's Justice Minister Judit Varga: "Hungary has done its utmost to reach an agreement with the European Commission in order to meet the seventeen commitments previously negotiated to allow the release of EU funds by the deadline". (["The EU Still Has Rule of Law Concerns about Hungary, Commissioner Says," Hungary Today](#), 21 November 2022)

COP27 delayed; EU collective effort to bring the signatories under common finance goals

On 18 November, *Frankfurter Allgemeine* reported on the delay in concluding the COP27 due to extension in the negotiation. The Egyptian Presidency which offered a final declaration draft of 10 pages was cut to eight pages with agreement from 200 signatory states to abide to 1.5 degree target. Differences seem to continue over increasing of national reduction contribution and phasing out from coal. Another challenge to the final declaration is all developmental banks aligning their finance to achieve the goals set in 2015 Paris agreement. EU Climate Commissioner Frans Timmermans reached to China and G-77 group to take part in the

funding roadmap, while the West seemed to be resistant to challenges in directing the money to climate change solutions.

According to Timmermans: "If our steps forward are not met with concessions, we will fail." (Christian Geinitz, ["Timmermans said. 'If our steps forward are not met with concessions, we will fail,'" Frankfurter Allgemeine](#), 18 October 2022)

Estonian-Latvian defence forces vehicles to be delivered in 2023

On 19 November, *ERR* reported Estonia and Latvia's joint procurement of vehicles for Estonian defence forces will start arriving in 2023. The two countries had signed a 10-year procurement deal earlier this year worth EUR 693 million which will equip the Estonian Defence Forces (EDF), Estonian Defence League (EDL) and Police and Border Guard Board (PPA) with 16 different types of vehicles. While the exact number of vehicles will depend on the market price, the Center for Defence Investment (RKK) said that they will be placing the first order for four years of vehicles at the same time which will be delivered in the latter part of 2023 to Estonia. (["Joint Estonian, Latvian procured defense forces vehicles to arrive in 2023," news.err.ee](#), 19 November 2022)

Negotiations begin to increase Frontex's presence in Western Balkans

On 18 November, the European Council reported that it will be starting negotiations with Albania, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Montenegro to increase the presence of Frontex in these countries. EU's border agency Frontex has a limited presence in these countries and the European Council wants it to play a greater role in the Western Balkans to "assist those countries to manage migration flows, counter illegal immigration and to tackle cross border crime." The Balkans are used by asylum seekers and migrants from Africa, the Middle East and Central Asia to enter the EU and these negotiations will assist to "detect and block irregular migration movements early on." (["Council to negotiate increasing EU border agency's presence in Western Balkans," EURACTIV](#), 18 November 2022)

European Defence Agency urges EU members to increase cooperation on joint arms projects

On 15 November, The European Defence Agency (EDA) released its report called Coordinated Annual Review on Defence (CARD). The report details how despite plans to increase the military budget of EU members to EUR 70 billion by 2050, the majority are sceptical of European defence cooperation projects and prefer to plan in isolation. The report highlighted that only 18 per cent of total investment in defence projects was towards EU defence cooperation. It criticised the outward nature of defence procurement by EU members which has increased due to the Ukraine conflict. Outlining how EU members purchase defence equipment from suppliers outside the EU like South Korea, the US, and Israel rather than from EU nations, EDA fears that this purchasing pattern will have a negative effect on European defence. It not only increases the dependency on other countries but adds to the disintegrating European defence. ("EU must spend, cooperate more on joint arms projects, bloc's defence agency says," *EURACTIV*, 16 November 2022)

Sweden amends its anti-terror laws to comply Turkey's demand

On 16 November, Sweden passed a constitutional amendment to make anti-terror laws stricter, complying with Turkey's demand to Sweden for its NATO membership bid approval. The new amendment introduces the law to "limit freedom of association when it comes to associations that engage in or support terrorism" and "wider criminalization of participation in a terrorist organization or a ban against the terrorist organization." The law meets the demand that Turkey should not support the PKK terrorists and the group responsible for the failed 2016 coup in Turkey, the Gulenist Terror Group (FETO). It also demands the extradition of terror suspects in the Nordic countries. The new law will be implemented from 01 January. ("Sweden passes tougher anti-terror laws amid demands from Türkiye," *Daily Sabah*, 16 November 2022)

The EU fears Serbia and Kosovo disagreements to transform into dangerous crisis

On 14 November, EU Chief Diplomat Joseph Borrell at the meeting of EU foreign ministers expressed concerns over the situation between Kosovo and Serbia and fears that it may turn into the most dangerous crisis seen in the last decade. Calling on Serbia and Kosovo to fulfil their obligations outlined in the EU-facilitated Belgrade-Pristina dialogue, Borrell said: "Both parties – both parties – need to urgently show readiness to find a way forward to lower these tensions. It is not acceptable for either party to violate or ignore their Dialogue obligations." According to Borrell negotiators from Kosovo and Serbia will be arriving in Brussels to provide a solution for the increasing tensions by 21 November. ("EU: Serbia, Kosovo on brink of 'most dangerous crisis' in last decade," *EURACTIV*, 14 November 2022)

France and UK sign migrant patrol deal

On 14 November, French Interior Minister Gerald Darmanin and UK's Interior Minister Suella Braverman signed an agreement which outlines measures to tackle illegal migration across the English Channel. The agreement outlines that the UK will pay France EUR 72.2 million to increase the number of security personnel at the northern beaches by 40 per cent or approximately 350 personnel. The agreement also outlines the use of human and technological resources for better efficiency in monitoring, detecting and intercepting boats on the French coasts. The deal also provides for the collection and implementation of information gathered from the migrants to take down smuggling networks and deter crossings. ("France, UK sign deal tackling illegal immigration across Channel," *France24*, 14 November 2022)

The new subsea cable connecting Ireland and Iceland inaugurated

On 14 November, a new undersea telecom cable connecting Ireland and Iceland was completed. The project is a part of Iceland's plan to make Ireland a "Gateway to Europe", linking Europe to North America. The cable

connects Iceland's Thorlaskshofn in the South to Ireland's Galway on its west coast. The cable is the first one that links Ireland without connecting to the UK. A similar project was announced last month to connect Ireland with Japan via the North-West passage. The cable is operated by Iceland's state-owned company called Farice. The cable is said to be part of the new industrial revolution as it combines high quality, digital infrastructure with renewable technology, infrastructure and skills. (Molly Killeen, "[Ireland, and Iceland linked through new subsea telecoms cable](#)," *EURACTIV*, 14 November 2022)

Riigikogu speaker Jüri Ratas discuss Estonia-Slovakia relations

On 12 November, Estonian Riigikogu speaker Jüri Ratas during his visit met Slovakian Prime Minister Eduard Heger and discussed their close relations to help build future joint cooperation projects in the digital economy, e-governance and cyber security. They also discussed the refugee influx from Ukraine to Estonia and Slovakia and the reconstruction efforts led by Estonia in Zhytomyr Oblast, Ukraine. ("[Riigikogu speaker: Strong Estonia-Slovakia relations more crucial than ever](#)," *news.err.ee*, 12 November 2022)

Bulgaria experiencing unprecedented migrant pressure at the Bulgaria-Turkis border

On 13 November, Bulgaria's Border Police Rosista Dimitrova said that the migrant pressure on the Bulgarian border with Turkey remains "unprecedented." Dimitrova said prevented attempts at the Bulgarian-Turkish border in one week in September 2022 was the same as the entire of 2020 and prevented attempts the previous week is more compared to the entire of 2019. On the other hand, Bulgaria's Minister of Internal Affairs Ivan Demerdzhiev said that the migrant pressure on the border was decreasing referring to the drop in the number of migrants illegally entering Bulgaria every day from 1600 to 600. ("[Bulgaria's 'Border Police' reports unprecedented Migrant Pressure](#)," *novinite.com*, 13 November 2022)

The European Commission predicts a recession in the eurozone in the last quarter of 2022

On 11 November, the European Commission released the latest economic forecast predicting that the eurozone will face recession in the winter as inflation steadily increases. The skyrocketing energy prices were found to be the main driver of prolonged inflation, which will increase it to 8.5 per cent in 2022 before crashing down to 6.1 per cent in 2023. The growth prediction for 2023 fell from July's forecast of 1.4 per cent to 0.3 per cent. Germany is expected to perform the worst in 2023, with the economic output falling by 0.6 per cent. The Commission also predicts a slow economic output till the first quarter of 2023. The hike in energy prices, the cost of living crisis and inflation are expected to put most EU member states into recession in the last three months of 2022. The inflation is set to ease by the spring of 2023 in Europe. ("[EU says eurozone set to fall into recession this winter](#)," *Deutsche Welle*, 11 November 2022)

Tough border controls inconvenience Slovakia with growing number of asylum seekers

On 10 November, tensions between Slovakia and the Czech Republic rose as the latter increased its border controls with its border with Germany, thus, increasing the number of refugees in Slovakia. Slovakia's Prime Minister Eduard Heger took it to the EU to challenge the usage of border controls by the Czech Republic. Slovakia argues that the controls breached the EU's principle of the visa-free Schengen zone. Czech Interior Minister Vit Rakusan confirmed that the meeting between Heger and the Czech Republic Prime Minister Petr Fiala resulted in the Czech agreement to relax the border controls for the locals. Heger and Fiala also agreed on speeding up the checks on the Slovakian and the Czech nationals. The Czech defended the border controls as a measure to mitigate the increased influx of refugees from Syria. (Radovan Stoklasa and Jason Hovet, "[Czech border controls blocking migrants' route to Germany frustrate Slovakia](#)," *Reuters*, 11 November 2022)

Sweden's Foreign Minister to visit Turkey

On 10 November, Sweden's Foreign Minister, Tobias Billstrom, said that he would visit Ankara to discuss Finland's and Sweden's NATO accession. Sweden's and Finland's NATO bid was blocked by Turkey. Turkey's President, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, threatened to block the Nordic countries' bid if they did not extradite PKK individuals residing in them and share information about them. Sweden's Prime Minister, Ulf Kristersson, met with Erdogan, coaxing him to remove Turkey's block on the Nordic countries' NATO bid. Billstrom believes that talks are possible, and when all conditions are fulfilled, the Turkish parliament will be ready to ratify. ("Swedish foreign minister to go to Turkey 'shortly' in Nato bid," *THE LOCAL se*, 10 November 2022)

EU aid towards coal regions failed to incite climate transition

On 10 November, the European Court of Auditors (ECA) said that the funds given to coal-producing regions did not result in an effective climate transition. The ECA looked into the data of EUR 12.5 billion in funds given to Germany, Poland, Romania, the Czech Republic and Spain between 2014-2022 for climate transition. ECA outlined how the funds were being directed to ventures such as developmental upgrades in health and transport infrastructure, and broad quality life projects rather than "green" energy transition. The ECA added that the Russia-Ukraine conflict has forced countries to adopt more amount of coal as it is a cheaper alternative. The ECA stressed the risk of investing in such endeavours without sufficient evidence that it is working. ("EU auditors say aid for coal regions failed to spur climate transition," *EURACTIV*, 10 November 2022)

Slovakian Prime Minister to visit Czech Republic amid border tensions

On 10 November, the Czech government reported that Slovak Prime Minister Eduard Heger will visit Prague on 17 November. Heger said that "free movement is a fundamental advantage" of the Schengen area and that he "expressed hope" that upcoming talks would "be fruitful." Czech

Republic's Interior Minister Vít Rakusan expressed that the meeting will not lead to the lifting of blockades in the borders. Rakusan added that the situation is "regrettable" and that the migration from Slovakia to the Czech Republic has "worked without any intervention from the Slovak side." He went on to criticise Slovakia by pointing out the efficiency in identifying illegal migrants at the border between the two when the Czech were in control which. ("Czechia Forced to React to the Situation on the Czech-Slovak Border," *Hungary Today*, 10 November 2022)

The EU promises an energy support package of EUR 250 million to Moldova

On 10 November, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen announced a support package for Moldova to cope with the rising energy prices at a press conference along with President Maia Sandu in Moldova. She said that the EU would pledge EUR 200 million for energy security, half divided as grants and the rest as loans. The package would also include an additional EUR 50 million in financial support to Moldova. Moldova Support Platform will be mobilized on 21 November in the Paris meeting to help with international donations. Russia invading Ukraine resulted in Moldova suffering energy supply disruption from Gazprom, from whom Moldova relied on natural gas imports. The protests against the pro-Western government have been increasing in Moldova, blaming them for the surge in energy prices. Addressing the internal conflicts and energy prices remains a priority for the EU candidacy country. ("EU announces energy support package for Moldova," *Deutsche Welle*, 10 November 2022)

Poland suspects Belarus of instigating migration crisis in Eastern Europe

On 08 November, Poland's Border Guard rescued ten people from a swamp near its border with Belarus. The rescued foreigners were eight Sri Lankans, a Pakistan and an Indian. Polish Border Guards and the EU suspect Belarus influencing the increase in migrants from the Middle East and Africa to destabilize the country. A new migrant

crisis is expected in Poland. Poland has noted that migrant activities have been increasing on its border with Belarus. The increase in illegal migrants has made the Polish government construct walls on the borders with Belarus and Russian Enclave Kaliningrad. ([“Migrants rescued from swamp on Polish-Belarus border as numbers rise,” Reuters](#), 08 November 2022)

Sweden agrees to aid in countering terrorist groups in Turkey

On 08 November, *Daily Sabah* reported that Sweden's Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson met with Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan in Ankara to reaffirm bilateral relations between both countries. Sweden promised to comply with Madrid memorandum in aiding Turkey with its security against terrorist groups such as PKK. Sweden's NATO membership is being halted due to Turkey. Assisting Turkey in countering terrorist has resulted in Turkey agreeing to Sweden's membership in NATO. The resumption of arms trade with Turkey has also been a positive approach in strengthening its bilateral relation with the Eastern European state. ([“Sweden to fulfill security pledges made to Türkiye: PM Kristersson,” Daily Sabah](#), 08 November 2022)

UK and France in the final stage of talks regarding curbing illegal migration

On 07 November, UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak and French President Emmanuel Macron met on the sidelines of the COP27 summit in Egypt. The main issue that was discussed was that of illegal migration to the UK through the English Channel from France. According to Sunak and his spokesman, the two countries are in the final stages of agreeing to a deal which looks to stop the migrants from crossing the Channel. This is the first meeting between the two leaders and comes at a time when relations are sour between the two nations. Sunak expressed his optimism regarding this new deal and hoped that they can overcome the challenge of stopping illegal migrants. When asked about the deal, Sunak said: "You will hear more details about that in the coming weeks, as those conversations happen amongst all our teams." ([“UK](#)

[France in 'final stages' of deal to tackle illegal migration,” Reuters](#), 07 November 2022)

EU and UK are closer to finding a solution to Northern Ireland's Brexit row

On 07 November, European Commission Vice President Maroš Šefčovič in the second meeting of the EU-U.K. Parliamentary Partnership Assembly (PPA) in Westminster said that the position of both the parties is not “worlds apart.” Šefčovič added that the checks on goods being exported to Northern Ireland can become “invisible” if the UK aggress on the EU proposals. He also urged the UK to abandon the Northern Ireland Protocol Bill which would allow the UK to ignore the already negotiated agreements which according to them are affecting power-sharing in Northern Ireland and impacting the businesses too. Šefčovič urged the UK to come to an agreement before the 25 anniversary of the Belfast/Good Friday peace agreement in April. This was refused by a spokesperson for the UK's Prime Minister Rishi Sunak who said that the government will not work to a set timeline on such talks. The UK are pushing for a solution to Northern Ireland's rising energy prices problem. According to U.K.'s Europe Minister Leo Docherty who spoke at the PPA, the people of Northern Ireland have been negatively affected by the previously agreed protocol and are not receiving the same benefits as the rest of the UK in terms of VAT and state subsidies. ([“EU and UK ‘not worlds apart’ on Northern Ireland Brexit row, senior EU official says,” POLITICO](#), 07 November 2022)

CLIMATE

Europe witnessed the warmest October according to the 1991-2020 average

On 08 November, the EU's Copernicus Climate Change Service (C3S) announced that Europe had recorded the warmest average temperature in October, two degrees Celsius above compared to the 1991-2020 reference period. The regions affected the most were Western Europe, Austria, France, Switzerland, Italy and Spain. Some of the Greek islands and Iceland saw a colder October. However,

Europe witnessed a hotter October compared to other continents. C3S noted that the 2022 October was 0.41 degrees Celcius warmer than the 1991-2020 average and only 0.04 degrees Celcius cooler than the warmest October recorded in 2019. (Tristan Fiedler, "[Europe saw warmest October on record](#)," *POLITICO*, 08 November 2022)

Rishi Sunak promises to fulfil the UK's climate finances commitment

On 07 November, *POLITICO* reported that the UK's Prime Minister Rishi Sunak promised his government would deliver its climate financing funds in his address in the COP27 climate summit in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt. Although the UK is facing an economic crisis, it promised to deliver GBP 11,6 billion in climate finance over five years and increase funding on adaptation to GBP 1.5 billion by 2025. The change followed after the UK was accused of not sticking to its climate financing commitment and previous Prime Minister Liz Truss' disastrous budget. The energy crisis also propelled the urge to change to renewables and also bolster energy security in the UK. Sunak's address in COP27 pointed to the importance of tackling climate change in his government. (Esther Webber, "[Sunak vows no backsliding on climate finance despite UK economic crisis](#)," *POLITICO*, 07 November 2022)

ECONOMY

Central Bank warns over increasing budget deficit

On 14 November, Czech central bank Governor Ales Michl said that if there is an increase in the budget deficit and a sudden rise in nominal wages it will lead to a direct increase in inflation rates. According to Michl, it is important that budget deficit and nominal wages should not increase by at least five per cent to keep inflation rates stable. Preventing money circulation in the economy will help to reduce inflation in the country. While the central bank has projected nominal wages to grow 6.3 per cent in 2022 and 7.7 per cent in 2023, in real terms it expects it to fall to 9.4 per cent and 1.2 per cent. ("[Czech wage growth below 5% needed to tame inflation, central](#)

[bank governor says](#)," *Reuters*, 14 November 2022)

Estonian pensioners stay unaffected after stock market shocks

On 14 November, *err* reported that despite volatility in global stock markets, Estonian pensioners have not strayed away from the pension system. The report highlights how increased awareness and interest rates have led to more movement of funds, especially in the pension market. Despite this Estonia-based LHV Pensionifond has seen the best return in the market in the past 12 months. In the LHV fund, there are three tiers M, L and XL all of which have shown positive returns with L having approximately four per cent returns in 2022. Swedbank the leading bank where most second-pillar Estonian pensioners keep their money has reportedly seen a movement of funds from the bank to LHV in 2021. ("[The decline in world markets does not deter Estonian pensioners](#)," *err.ee*, 14 November 2022)

ENERGY

Gas exploration kicks off in Crete

On 10 November, the Greek Minister of Energy and Environment Kostas Skrekas said that the country has started its gas exploration, beginning with seismic surveys in offshore areas in the west and southwest of Crete. Skrekas said that the "ship has begun" and that it is laying cables at this time. The surveys are conducted by the ExxonMobil/HelleniQ Energy joint venture that has rights in the area with the Sanco Swift vessel. He underlined that the area they are surveying may be "the last hope" that the oil and gas extraction industry has for finding a large natural gas field in the region of Eastern Europe. The exploratory drilling of the area will continue till the end of 2026, followed by the exploitation of those deposits in 2027, given that the results are "encouraging." ("[Greece Begins Gas Exploration Off Crete](#)," *Greek Reporter*, 10 November 2022)

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Chinese takeover of semiconductor production expected to be prohibited by Germany

On 07 November, Germany's semiconductor manufacturing company, Elmos, announced that its deal with the Swedish subsidiary of China's Sai Microelectronics, Silex Microsystems AB, would be terminated in the upcoming cabinet meeting on 09 November. Elmos, a chipmaker for the automobile industry, signed a deal of EUR 85 million with Silex to hand over its Dortmund plant for producing semiconductors and let Elmos take care of chip processing. The government approved it at first. However, the government intends to prohibit the deal after receiving warnings from the German security authorities. The German security authorities are afraid of losing intellectual property and letting China increase its chip production capacity. The concern regarding reliance on an autocratic state like China was brought up to the government after Germany witnessed the energy crisis due to the overdependency of Russian oil and gas. (Wilhelmine Preussen, "[Germany 'expected' to ban Chinese takeover of chips factory, company says](#)," *POLITICO*, 08 November 2022)

SPACE

First spaceport licence issued by the UK as it moves closer to launching the indigenous satellite

On 16 November, the UK presented its first spaceport license and created a path for the country's first satellite launch later this year. The license was issued to Spaceport Cornwall, where the UK regulator, the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) said that it was in "very advanced stages". The license puts the country at an advantage and pushes its bid to be the first country in Europe from which satellites can be launched into orbit. ("[Britain issues first spaceport licence ahead of maiden satellite launch](#)," *Reuters*, 16 November 2022)

INTERNATIONAL

German to withdraw troops part of the MINUSMA mission from Mali

On 22 November, Germany announced that it will be withdrawing troops stationed in

Mali as a part of the MINUSMA mission. German government spokesperson Steffen Hebestreit said the government will ask the parliament to extend German troops' presence in Mali till May 2024 to "...bring this mission to a structured end after 10 years." Germany has been a part of the MINUSMA mission since 2013 and has deployed 1,400 troops to Mali as part of the mission. Germany is the next to announce its withdrawal after the UK and Ivory Coast as tensions rise between the UN and Mali's military leaders. ("[Germany to withdraw troops from UN Mali mission by May 2024](#)," *Al Jazeera*, 22 November 2022)

The Commission signs partnership with Kazakhstan, Namibia and Egypt in COP27

On 20 November, the European Commission set out various goals and plans to fulfil at the end of the COP27 UN Climate Change Conference in Sharm el-Sheikh in Egypt. The Commission adjusted its goal to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius. The EU wanted to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 43 per cent before 2030 and align the Glasgow Climate Pact's goal for Nationally Determined Contribution with the Paris Agreement temperature goal by 2023 as a solution to limit global warming to 1.5 per cent. The EU also promised funds for loss and damage to aid developing countries vulnerable to climate change impacts. The EU also signed partnerships with Kazakhstan, Namibia and Egypt on renewable hydrogen and raw materials. The EU pledged to provide Africa with EUR 1 billion as a climate change adaptation fund. The main focus was to make the Paris Agreement prominent again. ("[EU agrees to COP27 compromise to keep Paris Agreement alive and protect those most vulnerable to climate change*](#)," *ec.europa.eu*, 21 November 2022)

Switzerland takes the lead in promoting digitization in the Francophonie summit

On 20 November, 30 countries attended the 18th Francophonie Summit in Djerba, Tunisia. The main themes of the summit were digital technology and diversity. Switzerland's President, Ignazio Cassis, promoted Switzerland's role in global

digital governance and showed his support for the re-election of Louise Mushikiwabo as the Secretary-General of the International Organization of La Francophonie (OIF). Cassis said that the role of new technologies in improving public services and the most disadvantaged's lives are important for the future. Switzerland has focused on digitalization as one of the main themes of its foreign policy. The summit had panel discussions on "Connectivity in diversity: digital technology as a vector of development and solidarity in the Francophone space" and "Digital technology, a priority instrument for La Francophonie". Cassis highlighted Switzerland's digital capabilities in Geneva and how they can play a vital role in digitization among French-speaking countries. The summit also discussed strengthening efforts to have more women and young people as agents of peace and development. ("Francophonie summit: President of the Swiss Confederation promotes Geneva's role in global digital governance," *admin.ch*, 20 November 2022)

EU and Egypt sign agreement regarding clean energy transition

On 16 November, the European Union (EU) and Egypt furthered their relations on clean energy transition through the establishment of a strategic partnership based on renewable hydrogen and equitable energy transition in Egypt. The European Commission and Egypt's Minister for Petroleum signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on the same, along with a joint statement with the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD). The Commission announced a contribution of nearly EUR 35 million in support of Egypt's Energy Wealth Initiative. The MoU was signed in the previous week at COP27 and will "serve as a central block" in building a strategic partnership between the EU and Egypt. ("COP27: EU and Egypt step up cooperation on the clean energy transition," *ec.europa.eu*, 16 November 2022)

Norway-US sign F-35 missiles agreement

On 16 November, the Director General of the Norwegian Defence Material Agency (NDMA) and the US government signed a defence deal worth NOK five billion. This deal will equip the Norwegian Air Force's F-35s with AMRAAM-D air-to-air missiles. The AMRAAM-D purchase is the largest procurement of weapons by the Air Force. Norway's Minister of Defence Bjørn Arild Gram said: "This is a very important agreement both for Norway's defensive capabilities and US-Norwegian defence cooperation." The deal is funded by the Norwegian F-35 programme which has provisions for such missile procurement and the delivery of the missiles is said to continue till 2028. ("Norway signs record agreement for F-35-missiles," *regjeringen.no*, 16 November 2022)

Slovenia to buy Algerian gas to secure its gas requirements

On 16 November, Slovenian Infrastructure Minister Bojan Kumar and Algerian Minister of Energy and Mining Mohamed Arkab signed a deal through which Slovenia will buy approximately 300 million cubic meters of natural gas from Algeria. The flow of gas will happen through pipelines in Tunisia and Italy from 01 January 2023. The three-year deal will facilitate gas flow from Algerian energy company Sonatrach to Slovenian energy trader Geoplin. This purchase will cover a third of Slovenia's gas needs and reduce dependency on Russian gas. ("Slovenia secures Algerian gas to cover third of its needs," *EURACTIV*, 16 November 2022)

The EU backs India's call for fossil fuel phase-down as a part of COP27 deal

On 15 November, EU Climate Policy Chief Frans Timmermans said that the EU supports India's call for fossil fuel phase-down as a part of the COP27 deal provided it does not affect previous agreements on reducing coal. Timmermans said: "But we also have to make sure that this call does not diminish the earlier agreements we had on phasing down coal, so if it comes on top of what we already agreed in Glasgow, then the EU will support in this proposal."

Countries that are rich in fossil fuel have voiced their opposition for this proposal saying that the term “phase-down” should be defined and should not “demonise” fossil fuels. Timmermans outlined that the EU looks not to dictate a country’s energy purchases but to send warnings on investment in fossil fuels. ([“EU supports COP27 call to phase down all fossil fuels,” Reuters](#), 15 November 2022)

Turkey to represent the Organization of Turkic States (OTS) summit

On 11 November, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan will represent the Organization of Turkic States (OTS) summit at Samarkand. The OTS members include Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan and Hungary are observer nations of the group. Erdogan has pushed for closer ties with the Caucasus and Central Asian countries for years and hopes to take advantage of the diminishing Russian influence in these ex-Soviet states to build closer relations. After the start of the Ukraine war, Central Asian countries especially Kazakhstan have reached out to make new alliances to reduce dependency on Russia. ([“Turkey seeks Central Asia inroads with Russia distracted,” EURACTIV](#), 11 November 2022)

Lithuania a next hotspot for semiconductor production

On 07 November, Taiwan announced its decision to invest EUR 10 million in building semiconductor chip technology in collaboration with Lithuania’s electronic manufacturer Teltonika. The head of Taiwanese representative office in Lithuania, Eric Huang said: “It is because Taiwan would like to work with Lithuania together to strengthen the resilience of our democratic supply chain in the face of coercion by autocracies.” The deepening relations between Lithuania and Taiwan has been a bigger tension for the Chinese, Beijing also downgraded its relationship with Lithuania and banned imports after Taiwan opened a de facto embassy in its capital. Lithuania a former Soviet republic has a strong anti-China sentiment. ([“Taiwan to invest 10 mln euros](#)

[towards chip production in Lithuania,” Reuters](#), 10 November 2022)

Hungary and Uzbekistan to increase strategic cooperation

On 10 November, Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban and Uzbekistan President Shavkat Mirziyoyev held discussions about economic and energy cooperation at the summit of the Turkic Council in Samarkand. Orban mentioned that Hungary is “struggling” in the current war and sanction crisis, and wants to hold on to its “economic impetus” and said that he wants to increase the intensity of cooperation with Uzbekistan. Further, he added that Hungary would increase scholarship grants for Uzbek students in Hungary from 120 to 170, yearly. Mirziyoyev welcomed the move and said that Uzbekistan will be “given every assistance” to make their investments productive. ([“Hungary Intensifies Strategic Cooperation with Uzbekistan,” Hungary Today](#), 10 November 2022)

Romania receives two loans from the US to build new nuclear reactors

On 10 November, Romania’s Prime Minister Nicolae Ciucă announced that they will be building two new nuclear reactors at the Cernavoda atomic power plant. Ciucă added that this was possible because of the loans given by the US under 25 strategic partnerships between Romania and the US. This gave Romania access to American nuclear CANDU 6 technology in 2020. The first loan of USD 50 million will be used in the preliminary work phase which will finish in 2025. The two reactors will be constructed with the help of a second loan of USD 3 billion by 2030. The Cernavoda plant is owned by Nuclearelectrica and accounts for 18 per cent of the total energy produced in Romania. Through the new reactors, Ciucă hopes to increase its energy independence and added: “Romania is taking important steps towards energy independence through clean technology, which is an alternative solution for reducing harmful emissions.” ([“Romania To Build Two New Nuclear Reactors with US Technology,” BalkanInsight](#), 10 November 2022)

German Finance Minister calls for dialogue with the US over concerns with the Inflation Regulation Act

On 07 November, Germany's Finance Minister Christian Linder expressed the need for dialogue between the US and EU over the latter's concerns with the Inflation Regulation Act. Linder urged the task force set up to address the concern to act quickly to decrease the trade tensions that have risen between the two. He expressed his doubts on whether the US administration has fully understood the concerns of the EU and the consequences of the act. Linder added: "In everyone's interest, we will not enter a tit-for-tat but rather strengthen the sources of wealth and growth together." The Inflation Regulation Act which was introduced in August includes provisions for conditional subsidies on sectors like the car sector. This has a negative impact on the EU as it houses many car manufacturers and the manufacturing sector of new "green energy" sector goods such as batteries which will become more expensive. ("[EU, US must address concerns over U.S. inflation act - German fin min](#)," *Reuters*, 07 November 2022)

Two-week-long COP27 climate summit begins in Egypt

On 07 November, the COP27 climate summit kicked off in Sharm el-Sheikh with world leaders and diplomats coming together to discuss how to avert the impending worst of climate change. Day 1 was filled with speeches from the UN General Secretary Antonio Guterres who called the current situation a "highway to climate hell." Guterres talked about how humanity either has to cooperate or perish when dealing with the fastracked climate change effects due to the war in Europe, rising tensions between the US and China the top emitters of carbon, inflation, and tight energy supplies. French President Emmanuel Macron in his speech said that the world cannot forget about the climate crisis despite being distracted by other global crises and implored the importance of not sacrificing one's commitment to climate. The UK's Prime Minister Rishi Sunak talked about the need to accelerate the transition from fossil fuels to renewable fuels and ensure that climate security goes

hand in hand with energy security and added that the rising prices should not deter us from acting on climate change but in turn should encourage us to act faster. ("[At COP27, climate change framed as battle for survival](#)," *Reuters*, 07 November 2022)

Russia accused of aiding strikes on camps and misinformation in Syria

On 07 November, the White Helmets a volunteer first responders group in Syria accused the Syrian military and Russia of killing nine civilians in a strike on camps for displaced people. The attack was carried out on three camps in northern Syria and the said to have struck a jihadist group's drone facility and training camp according to Russian officials in Syria. The attack destroyed the tents and homes of the displaced in the regions and killed women and children. The White Helmets also dismissed Russian top military official Oleg Yegorov claims that it was collaborating with al-Nusra Front to stage the attacks and called this move a "media disinformation campaign." ("[Syria war: White Helmets accuse Russia over deadly strikes on camps](#)," *BBC*, 07 November 2022)

Wagner Group founder admits to meddling in US election

On 07 November, businessman and founder of Wagner Group Yevgeny Prigozhin admitted to interfering in US elections. A close ally of Russian President Vladimir Putin, Prigozhin added that they will continue to meddle "carefully, precisely, surgically and in our own way, as we know how." Wagner Group is a mercenary group which has been on the frontlines of Russia's war in Ukraine. Prigozhin has faced sanctions from the West and the US State Department even offered USD 10 million for any information regarding Prigozhin involvement in US elections. The issue of Russian interference while prominent has been relegated to the sidelines in the US with domestic actors such as celebrities, influencers and politicians in the US leading the election-related misinformation with their larger reach to the public. ("[Putin ally admits interfering in US elections](#)," *POLITICO*, 07 November 2022)

US ambassador implores Greece and Turkey to solve issues diplomatically

On 07 November, the US ambassador to Athens George Tsunis implored Turkey and Greece to solve the problems between the two diplomatically. Tsunis said that peace can only be achieved through diplomacy and said such clashes do not benefit the interests of Greece, Turkey or NATO. Tsunis when asked about the response of the US if an attack does occur on Greece he said: "The Greek army is capable of protecting the homeland but the U.S. would tirelessly work to ensure the peace." ("[Türkiye, Greece should solve problems through diplomacy: US envoy](#)," *Daily Sabah*, 07 November 2022)

50 countries sign a statement against human rights violations in China

On 31 October, Finland joined 49 other countries in signing a statement that condemned China for violating human rights in the Xinjiang region in the discussion of the Third Committee of the UN General Assembly. China was said to have conducted human rights violations by torturing, raping and forcing to give up the language and religion of people from Uighurs and other minority Muslim groups. China was also accused of having alleged camps for the minorities in the Xijiang region. China has rejected the accusation by the 50 countries stating that it was the West's political tool against it. The discussion on the Xinjiang report in the UN has not progressed yet as China has disagreed to discuss the content of the

report. ("[Finland and 49 other countries condemn China's human rights violations in Xinjiang in a joint statement](#)," *yle.fi*, 01 November 2022)

North Macedonia and Bulgaria launches railway construction project

On 29 October, The construction was launched by the Prime Minister of Bulgaria, Galab Donev and Republic of North Macedonia Prime Minister Dimitar Kovachevski. The EU financing the construction of this railway project, will spend half a billion euros to connect Kumanovo and Belyakovce in North Macedonia with the Bulgarian border. This would boost the trading partnership and the trade exchange is expected to reach EUR one billion by 2023. ("[The Construction of a Railway Section between North Macedonia and Bulgaria has been Launched](#)", *Novinite.com*, 30 October 2022.)

Estonia and Latvia to build a giant wind farm to boost energy production

On 28 October, Estonia's Sorve peninsula area is getting geared up for this hybrid offshore wind farm project, "Elwind." The total capacity of this project will be 700MW-1GW and is expected to provide about 3TWh of energy per year. Improving energy security and lowering prices, would also help Estonia and Latvia from reducing the usage of fossil fuels for energy. This grand project will be operational by 2030. ("[Latvia, Estonia choose location for giant wind farm](#)", *Centraleuropeantimes (CET)*, 31 October 2022.)

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