

HIGHLIGHTS

RUSSIA-UKRAINE WAR CHRONICLES

№121, 22-28 November, 2022

THE PACE OF MILITARY OPERATIONS SLOWS DUE TO WEATHER

The pace of military operations along the front line has slowed due to deteriorating weather, but it may [increase](#) again in the coming weeks. Hromadske [reports](#) on how the cold weather will affect the front line.

At the moment, Russian troops are trying to [advance](#) in the direction of Lyman, Bakhmut and Avdiivka. The General Staff of the AFU also expects these troops to receive reinforcements from the relocation of certain units from the territory of Belarus. The Ukrainian Defence Ministry's Main Intelligence Directorate has [said](#) that primarily the front-line cities of Zaporizhzhia, Kharkiv, Mykolaiv and Kherson are under threat of new strikes. Also, [Odesa](#) and Odesa Oblast are a priority for the Russian armed forces despite the shift of the front line in the south. At the same time, the Ukrainian Armed Forces are [advancing](#) towards Svatove and Kreminna in Luhansk Oblast.

According to [intelligence](#) from the UK Ministry of Defence, Russia is likely shelling Ukraine with ageing nuclear cruise missiles that have had their nuclear warheads removed in order to divert Ukrainian air defences. According to their experts, this indicates the level of depletion of the Russian missile stockpile.

According to the General Staff of the AFU, the Russian armed forces' losses as of the morning of 28 November [stood](#) at 87.900.

ONLY 3% OF RUSSIAN ATTACKS ARE AIMED AT MILITARY TARGETS

Daytime on 23 November, Russia attacked Ukraine once again. The AFU's air defence [shot down](#) five attack drones and 51 of approximately 70 missiles. The [attack](#) targeted 16 critical infrastructure facilities, resulting in emergency power cuts across the country. The project Skhema [showed](#) through satellite images how the country was plunged into darkness. In

Kyiv and Kyiv Oblast at least 8 people died and around 50 people were injured. Power had already been [restored](#) to all critical facilities by the morning of 24 November, however there are still [restrictions](#) for over 100,000 users in Kyiv and in 14 oblasts in each of the regions. More of half of the affected [heat supply facilities](#) have already had their power restored. Cities have opened “Points of Invicibility” where residents [can](#) warm up, charge batteries and access the internet.

In total, Russian shelling has [damaged](#) roughly 32,000 civilian facilities in Ukraine during the war, including more than 700 critical infrastructure facilities. Only 3% of recorded attacks were directed at military facilities. According to the UN, at least 77 civilians have been [killed](#) and another 272 wounded since October 10 due to strikes on energy facilities in Ukraine. Among the dead is a two-day-old [child](#). Around 600 [rockets](#) have been launched at Ukraine during this period.

INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY HELPS REBUILD UKRAINE’S ENERGY SECTOR

[The EU](#) is preparing to give Ukraine a batch of equipment to supply the country with electricity, including 200 transformers and dozens of heavy-duty generators. Head of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen said that the European Commission is working on a new EU energy resource centre based in Poland, where it plans to accept donations from third parties to then deliver them to Ukraine in a coordinated manner.

In addition, the European Commission has decided to give Ukraine another 2.5 billion euros for the [reconstruction](#) of the country.

[The World Bank](#) has provided Ukraine with 60 million dollars of additional funding, and the [United States](#) has pledged another 4.5 billion dollars in direct budget support.

[Lithuania](#) is sending another 2 million euros to Ukraine to rebuild the energy system that has been damaged by Russian shelling. [Transformers](#) have also been sent in recent days to Ukraine from Lithuania. The [US](#) is about to announce new aid to the Ukrainian energy sector.

MILITARY AID: AMMUNITION, EQUIPMENT AND DEBATES OVER THE INSTALLATION OF ANTI-AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS ON THE BORDER

The US has [announced](#) a new \$400 million military aid package for Ukraine, the twenty sixth overall. The aid includes additional ammunition and equipment. In addition, the Pentagon is considering an offer from Boeing to supply Ukraine with small, high-precision bombs mounted on missiles with a kill range of about 150 kilometres.

[Germany](#) has provided Ukraine with additional armoured recovery vehicles and border patrol vehicles, [Slovakia](#) with infantry fighting vehicles, [Norway](#) is sending a new military aid package including winter clothing, self-propelled artillery and artillery spare parts, and [Belgium](#) will send underwater drones and mobile laboratories. The [Croatian](#) government announced the country's participation in an EU training mission for Ukrainian servicemen.

Polish Defence Minister Mariusz Błaszczak [asked](#) Germany to give Ukraine the Patriot surface-to-air missile systems [offered](#) to Poland, but Germany [said](#) that the systems were intended for use on NATO territory.

[According](#) to The New York Times journalists, Ukraine needs more artillery and ammunition than its allies can provide, as European countries have significantly reduced production and stocks of weapons since 1991.

RUSSIA HAS SPENT A QUARTER OF ITS ANNUAL BUDGET ON THE WAR

The Council of the European Union has [supported](#) the inclusion of sanctions evasion as an offence in the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU. This is one of the steps aimed at ensuring the same level of sanctions enforcement in all countries.

Forbes has [calculated](#) that Russia has spent \$82 billion on the war against Ukraine in the nine months of the full-scale invasion – a quarter of its 2021 budget. In particular, Russia has fired more than 4000 missiles at Ukraine, at an average cost of \$3 million per missile. According to cited figures, the cost of warfare for Russia has doubled in the autumn and the invasion now requires at least \$10 billion a month.

Next year, the price of waging war may become too high for Russia, the newspaper wrote, noting that Russia's federal budget revenues from oil and gas exports are declining and sanctions on Russian oil will come into effect in December. Pipeline deliveries of Russian gas to European countries have almost stopped. In particular, [Germany](#) will join the embargo on 1 January.

At the same time, Europe has imported a record amount of [seaborne](#) gas since the beginning of the year, indicating that the region has not completely shed its dependency on Russian energy resources.

POW EXCHANGES CONTINUE

A number of further prisoner-of-war exchanges have taken place. Ukraine managed to return 35 service personnel and one civilian on [23](#) November, 50 service personnel on [24](#) November and 9 service personnel and three civilians on [26](#) November.

[According](#) to the American Institute for the Study of War, through more frequent exchanges Russia is trying to reduce the dissatisfaction with the Ministry of Defence that is spreading in the information space.

ALLIED FOREIGN MINISTERS VISIT UKRAINE

The foreign ministers of [seven countries](#) – Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Sweden, Norway, Finland and Iceland – arrived in Kyiv on 28 November on a joint visit. Latvian Foreign Minister Edgars Rinkēvičs [emphasised](#) that the goal of the meeting was to demonstrate full solidarity with Ukraine. A joint [statement](#) issued at the end of the meeting expressed the intention to support investments in Ukraine. The countries have promised to continue providing joint political and practical support, particularly aimed at the improvement of Ukraine's air defence capabilities to defend its independence and territorial integrity. The foreign ministers also stressed the need to tighten sanctions against Russia.

DEBUNKING FAKES

MEDIA CLAIM THAT RECOGNITION OF RUSSIA AS A STATE SPONSOR OF TERRORISM ALLEGEDLY HAS NO CONSEQUENCES

On 23 November, the European Parliament [recognised](#) Russia as a state sponsor of terrorism for its invasion of Ukraine. The resolution said that Russia used terrorist methods of warfare against Ukraine, including deliberate attacks and atrocities committed by Russian troops against Ukrainian civilians, the destruction of civil infrastructure, the energy sector, the bombing of hospitals, schools and shelters. The text stresses that military strikes against civilian facilities, such as energy infrastructure, hospitals and schools are grave violations of international law. Covering these events, Russian media have [claimed](#) that the adoption of such resolutions supposedly carries [no consequences](#) for Russia, [contributes](#) to fuelling conflicts around the world, and [highlights](#) the double standards of European politicians. They have also accused the European Parliament of political [bias](#).

These claims are fakes.

Such resolutions are only recommendatory in nature as the EU has not yet developed a legal basis for imposing serious restrictions on a country that has been granted such a status. MEPs have called on EU member states to create a proper legal framework at the national level and consider adding Russia to the list of countries sponsoring terrorism. It [has been noted](#) that this would entail a number of restrictive measures against Russia and would have serious consequences for EU relations with Russia. Moreover, the adoption of the resolution is [described](#) as a step towards holding Russian state figures accountable to an international tribunal.

Thus, this decision of the European Parliament is an important step in establishing an appropriate international legal framework.

It should also be noted that a number of countries and international institutions are already doing similar work. For example, on 24 November, a similar resolution was passed by the [Dutch](#) parliament. Previously, such resolutions were also passed by Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Estonia, the Czech Republic and Ukraine. The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe was the first international body to recognise Russia as a sponsor of terrorism, a month later the NATO Parliamentary Assembly also passed a similar resolution. Thus, the international community is moving towards a unified legal framework for imposing sweeping restrictions on countries that have received such a status.