

April 14, 2022

## Briefing Note

### Current Situation in Ukraine and the Work and Roles of Parliamentarians

*Prepared by the Parliamentary Centre and the Agency for Legislative Initiatives under the Parliamentary Accountability for the Security Sector (PASS Ukraine) project, funded by the Peace and Stabilisation Operations Program of Global Affairs Canada.*

*The analysis included in this note is based on media reports and information obtained from the Verkhovna Rada and other legislative bodies. It is essential that Ukraine's democratically elected officials continue to perform their duties while enduring Russia's unprovoked, illegal and horrific invasion.*

*This note is for information only and is not meant to convey opinions regarding policy decisions in the Verkhovna Rada's sole purview. The contents of this note do not necessarily reflect the views of PASS partners or Global Affairs Canada.*

*This note may not necessarily reflect the up-to-date current state of affairs as the situation changes every hour. Every attempt is made to ensure the accuracy of all information, acknowledging the rapidly deteriorating humanitarian and security situation, the disruption of the flow of information and organized disinformation all present incredible challenges.*

## HIGHLIGHTS

### Sanctions

- Olena Moshenets, the Deputy Chairwoman of the Committee on Anti-Corruption Policy, called for an increase in Ukraine's defense support and tougher sanctions against Russia and Belarus.<sup>1</sup>
- The Committee on Economic Development stressed that it will continue to work with other countries to increase sanctions and impose an embargo on energy imports from Russia.<sup>2</sup>
- There are several companies that are attempting to avoid sanctions. Marriott Hotels, HYATT Hotels, Wyndham, Radisson, and Hilton Hotels & Resorts are still operating in Russia. In addition, the State Agency for Tourism Development of Ukraine urges citizens to not use the services of the following airlines: El Al, Turkish Airlines, Etihad Airways, Emirates, Qatar Airways, Air China, China Southern Airlines, and China Eastern Airlines, as they are successfully connecting Russia with the rest of the world.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> (UKR) <https://www.rada.gov.ua/news/razom/221659.html>

<sup>2</sup> (UKR) <https://www.rada.gov.ua/news/razom/221662.html>

<sup>3</sup> (ENG) <https://www.rada.gov.ua/en/news/News/221714.html>

- The Parliamentary Committee on Human Rights called on the international community to exclude Russia from the UN Security Council.<sup>4</sup>
- The Committee on Youth and Sports has appealed to international sports federations to terminate existing contracts with all athletes and coaches in Russia.<sup>5</sup>

### Food crisis

- The sowing of spring crops has begun in 23 regions of Ukraine, except for Luhansk, where hostilities are taking place in almost the entire territory. According to the Ministry of Agrarian Policy, 70% of the area crops will be sown. Ukraine will be able to ensure food security within the country, as well as around the world. However, the issue of providing fuel to farmers for sowing remains critical during the war. Russia continues to undermine the economy of Ukraine and block Ukrainian seaports. The cessation of Ukrainian exports has already affected global food security and has led to an increase in world food prices.<sup>6</sup>

### Activity of the Chairman of the Verkhovna Rada

- Ruslan Stefanchuk, the Chairman of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, held a meeting with Shalva Papuashvili, the Chairman of the Parliament of Georgia. Following the conversation, Shalva Papuashvili reaffirmed his readiness to visit Ukraine with the parliamentary delegation. The delegation is expected to include parliamentarians from both Georgia's ruling party and the opposition.<sup>7</sup>

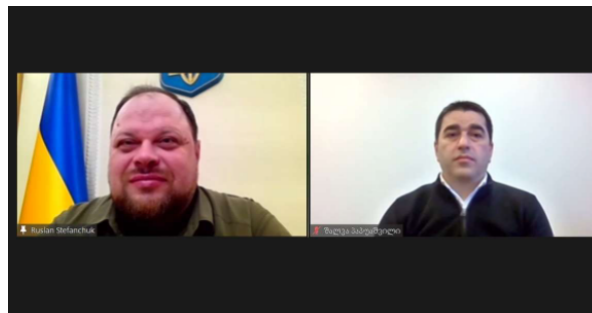


Photo: Verkhovna Rada ([https://www.rada.gov.ua/en/news/News/top\\_news/221713.html](https://www.rada.gov.ua/en/news/News/top_news/221713.html))

<sup>4</sup> (ENG) <https://www.rada.gov.ua/en/news/News/221712.html>

<sup>5</sup> (UKR) <https://www.rada.gov.ua/news/razom/221699.html>

<sup>6</sup> (UKR) <https://www.rada.gov.ua/news/razom/221707.html>

<sup>7</sup> (ENG) [https://www.rada.gov.ua/en/news/News/top\\_news/221713.html](https://www.rada.gov.ua/en/news/News/top_news/221713.html)

## Diplomatic direction

- Yaroslav Yurchyshyn, First Deputy Chairman of the Committee on Anti-Corruption Policy, stressed Ukraine's urgent need for weapons, which includes armored personnel carriers and infantry fighting vehicles, T-72 tanks of various modifications, aircrafts, anti-ship missiles for protection against Russian warships, and air defense systems.<sup>8</sup>
- Members of the Committee on Ukraine's EU Integration met with members of the Bundesrat, the Upper House of the German Parliament. Ivanna Klymush-Tsintsadze, the Chairwoman of the Committee, called on German parliamentarians to provide Ukraine with weapons and further strengthen sanctions against Russia.<sup>9</sup>
- Members of the Parliament of Ukraine met with the chairmen of three committees of the German Parliament (the Defense Committee, Foreign Affairs Committee, and EU Affairs Committee) in Lviv.<sup>10</sup>



Photos: Verkhovna Rada (<https://www.rada.gov.ua/news/razom/221704.html>)

## Additional Details

### Details of the 'Diplomatic direction' section:

Members of the Committee on Ukraine's EU Integration met with members of the Bundesrat, the Upper House of the German Parliament.

Ivanna Klymush-Tsintsadze, the Chairwoman of the Committee, informed her German colleagues of the atrocities committed by Russian occupiers in Ukraine. She stated, "Every day we see the terrible consequences of their invasion. People's bodies are being exhumed; the number of dead is growing every day. And among them – many women,

<sup>8</sup> (UKR) <https://www.rada.gov.ua/news/razom/221703.html>

<sup>9</sup> (UKR) <https://www.rada.gov.ua/news/razom/221695.html>

<sup>10</sup> (UKR) <https://www.rada.gov.ua/news/razom/221704.html>



children, the elderly. Unfortunately, we are witnessing more and more crimes against humanity and acts of genocide, such as the brutal rape of women, children and men, as well as the torture and execution of unarmed people with their hands tied behind their backs. This requires a strong and joint response from the whole free world.”

Ivanna Klympush-Tsintsadze called on German parliamentarians to provide Ukraine with weapons and further strengthen sanctions against Russia. She stressed, “It’s about the collective responsibility of the Russian people. It is not Putin who is killing us personally. This is done by his soldiers and officers, specific people. But it is also the absolute majority of Russians who actively or silently support the war in Ukraine.”

Vadim Galaychuk, First Deputy Chairman of the Committee, called on German colleagues to oppose Russian propaganda inside of Germany.

Ivanna Klympush-Tsintsadze reminded members that Russia has exploited the main tools of democracy to manipulate societies since 2014. She asserted, “Russia has turned the media, think tanks, and public organizations into propaganda tools. Now, if people who live in a free world and support Russia’s war against Ukraine in demonstrations – such demonstrations should be banned immediately. They have no right to take place in any democracy. It is not about the right of people to protest, but about people who support the bloody, unjustified massacre of other people. This contradicts humanity and violates all the principles of the international order. We hope for your clear legislative approach to ensure that Russian lies, manipulation, and propaganda do not grow on German soil.”

Ivanna Klympush-Tsintsadze thanked Germany for helping Ukrainians flee the war and asked for humanitarian aid for people who have become internally displaced inside of Ukraine. She emphasized, “We have 9 million internally displaced persons. And they also need help. Unfortunately, the amount of humanitarian aid coming to Ukraine is starting to decrease. I ask you to make efforts to mobilize additional humanitarian aid for Ukraine. In addition, the work of the UN Red Cross and humanitarian organizations could be more effective, in line with their mandates.”

Ivanna Klympush-Tsintsadze also called on Germany to support Ukraine in acquiring the status of a candidate for EU membership. According to Ivanna Klympush-Tsintsadze, “In the Committee on Ukraine’s Integration into the EU, we understand perfectly how much work and transformations await Ukraine so that it can become a member of the European Union. But today, granting candidate status can be a ray of light for the Ukrainian people, who are fighting for European values and freedoms.”