



May 10, 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.*

### Diplomatic direction

- On May 6, 2022, the chairpersons of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine met with a delegation of the United for Ukraine (U4U) global network of parliamentarians. Ukrainian parliamentarians informed their European colleagues about the security situation in Ukraine, war crimes and crimes against humanity committed by the Russian military in Ukraine, and the genocide of the Ukrainian people. During the meeting, special attention was paid to the issue of European integration and further steps towards Ukraine's membership in the European Union.<sup>1</sup>



Photo: Verkhovna Rada (<https://www.rada.gov.ua/en/news/News/222606.html>)

<sup>1</sup> (ENG) <https://www.rada.gov.ua/en/news/News/222606.html>



- Andrej Plenković, Prime Minister of the Republic of Croatia, and the Speakers of the Norwegian and German Parliaments arrived in Ukraine. Oleksandr Kornienko, First Deputy Speaker of the Ukrainian Parliament, Masud Gharahkhani, President of the Storting of the Kingdom of Norway, and Anniken Huitfeldt, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Norway, witnessed the consequences of the occupation of Bucha and Irpin, cities in the Kyiv region.<sup>2</sup>



Photo: Verkhovna Rada  
([https://www.rada.gov.ua/en/news/News/top\\_news/222611.html](https://www.rada.gov.ua/en/news/News/top_news/222611.html))

- Ruslan Stefanchuk, Chairman of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, and Masud Gharahkhani took part in the flower-laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and the Wall of Remembrance of the Fallen Defenders of Ukraine in the Russian-Ukrainian War. A minute of silence was observed in memory of the victims.<sup>3</sup>  
(Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=08UVIYq2aDE>)
- During the briefing, Ruslan Stefanchuk thanked Masud Gharahkhani for his support and spoke about several issues, including financial assistance to Ukraine, support for projects to rebuild infrastructure that was destroyed by Russia, and military assistance provided by anti-ship and anti-aircraft systems.<sup>4</sup>  
(Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nrup97JLeTU>)
- Ruslan Stefanchuk, Chairman of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, and Bärbel Bas, President of the German Bundestag, honored the memory of Holocaust victims in Ukraine<sup>5</sup> and victims of the Second World War.<sup>6</sup>  
(Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=imHiEdDAOm0>)

<sup>2</sup> (ENG) [https://www.rada.gov.ua/en/news/News/top\\_news/222611.html](https://www.rada.gov.ua/en/news/News/top_news/222611.html)

<sup>3</sup> (video) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=08UVIYq2aDE>

<sup>4</sup> (ENG/UKR video) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nrup97JLeTU>

<sup>5</sup> (UKR) <https://www.rada.gov.ua/news/Top-novyna/222616.html>

<sup>6</sup> (video) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=imHiEdDAOm0>



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Photo: Verkhovna Rada (<https://www.rada.gov.ua/news/Top-novyna/222616.html>)

- The Ukrainian parliament and Bärbel Bas, President of the German Bundestag, discussed assistance to Ukraine and accession to the EU in their meetings.<sup>7</sup> (Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pSyyXV4D-nk>)
- Ruslan Stefanchuk, Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, and Andrej Plenković, Prime Minister of the Republic of Croatia, held a meeting in the Parliament of Ukraine. They discussed issues of military assistance to Ukraine, the introduction of a total embargo on Russian energy, recognition of the genocide of the Ukrainian people committed by Russia, and Croatia's experience in joining the EU.<sup>8</sup>



Photos: Verkhovna Rada  
([https://www.rada.gov.ua/en/news/News/top\\_news/222610.html](https://www.rada.gov.ua/en/news/News/top_news/222610.html))

- Olena Kondratiuk, Deputy Chairwoman of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, has commenced her working visit to the Republic of Latvia. Olena Kondratiuk and Ināra Mūrniece, Speaker of the Latvian Parliament, laid flowers at the Freedom Monument in Riga and honored the memory of Ukrainians, military and civilian, whose lives were taken as a result of the Russian invasion.<sup>9</sup> (Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ynzk8WVP3Uw>)

<sup>7</sup> (GER/UKR video) [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pSyyXV4D-nk&feature=emb\\_title](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pSyyXV4D-nk&feature=emb_title)

<sup>8</sup> (ENG) [https://www.rada.gov.ua/en/news/News/top\\_news/222610.html](https://www.rada.gov.ua/en/news/News/top_news/222610.html)

<sup>9</sup> (video) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ynzk8WVP3Uw>





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- During her working visit, Olena Kondratiuk met with Egils Levits, President of the Republic of Latvia. They discussed Latvia's support for Ukraine.<sup>10</sup>



Photo: Verkhovna Rada (<https://www.rada.gov.ua/news/Top-novyna/222642.html>)

- Olena Kondratiuk also held meetings with Daniels Pavluts, Minister of Health of Latvia, and Anita Muižniece, Minister of Education and Science of Latvia. The participants discussed the provision of medical care and educational services to internally displaced people from Ukraine in Latvia.<sup>11</sup>



Photos: Verkhovna Rada (<https://www.rada.gov.ua/news/Top-novyna/222646.html>)

- During the visit, Olena Kondratiuk, Deputy Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine delivered a speech in the Parliament of the Republic of Lithuania. The speech focused on sanctions against Russia, assistance to Ukraine, and European integration.<sup>12</sup>  
(Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=visXP7jAes4>)

<sup>10</sup>(UKR) <https://www.rada.gov.ua/news/Top-novyna/222642.html>

<sup>11</sup> (UKR) <https://www.rada.gov.ua/news/Top-novyna/222646.html>

<sup>12</sup> (ENG/UKR video) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=visXP7jAes4>

- In addition, Olena Kondratiuk held a meeting with Viktorija Čmilytė-Nielsen, Speaker of the Lithuanian Seimas.<sup>13</sup>



Photos: Verkhovna Rada (<https://www.rada.gov.ua/news/Top-novyna/222679.html>)

- In Kharkiv, Ukrainian MPs met with Urmas Reinsalu, former Estonian Defense Minister. Urmas Reinsalu provided humanitarian aid and discussed the supply of heavy weapons.<sup>14</sup>



Photo: Verkhovna Rada (<https://www.rada.gov.ua/news/razom/222643.html>)

- The Economic Development Committee welcomes Canada's abolition of trade duties on Ukrainian goods for one year. This will increase exports of Ukrainian goods, as well as strengthen the country's economy and defense capabilities.<sup>15</sup>



Photo: Verkhovna Rada (<https://www.rada.gov.ua/news/razom/222665.html>)

<sup>13</sup> (UKR) <https://www.rada.gov.ua/news/Top-novyna/222679.html>

<sup>14</sup>(UKR) <https://www.rada.gov.ua/news/razom/222643.html>

<sup>15</sup> (UKR) <https://www.rada.gov.ua/news/razom/222665.html>



## Food crisis

- Despite the difficulties of war, sowing crops continues in Ukraine. Almost 80% of the areas projected for early spring crops have already been sown. For the 2022 harvest, the projected sown areas of the main spring crops in the territory controlled by Ukraine are 14,138.8 thousand hectares. This is 2,777.5 thousand hectares less than last year (16,916.3 thousand hectares).<sup>16</sup>



Photo: Verkhovna Rada (<https://www.rada.gov.ua/news/razom/222590.html>)

- The situation regarding Ukraine's dairy market is improving. To date, about 70% of dairy companies have established their production and set up sales schemes.<sup>17</sup>



Photo: Verkhovna Rada (<https://www.rada.gov.ua/news/razom/222626.html>)

- Olena Moshenets, Deputy Chairwoman of the Committee on Prevention of Corruption, stated that the Russians destroyed a new grain elevator, which was built in 2020, in the Luhansk region.<sup>18</sup>

<sup>16</sup> (UKR) <https://www.rada.gov.ua/news/razom/222590.html>

<sup>17</sup> (UKR) <https://www.rada.gov.ua/news/razom/222626.html>

<sup>18</sup> (UKR) <https://www.rada.gov.ua/news/razom/222583.html>





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Photos: Verkhovna Rada (<https://www.rada.gov.ua/news/razom/222583.html>)

- Yaroslav Yurchyshyn, First Deputy Chairman of the Committee on Anti-Corruption Policy, said that Ukraine exported more than 70% of all cargo through seaports. Since February 24, 2022, seaports have been blocked by the Russian fleet and anti-ship mines. Almost four and a half million tons of grain were blocked in ports and ships during the raid. Therefore, it is necessary to support the export of Ukrainian grain to prevent a global food crisis.<sup>19</sup>



Photo: Verkhovna Rada (<https://www.rada.gov.ua/news/razom/222628.html>)

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<sup>19</sup> (UKR) <https://www.rada.gov.ua/news/razom/222628.html>