

May 30, 2022

## Briefing Note

### Rada continues high-level international diplomatic relations

- **Oleksandr Kornienko, First Deputy Chairman of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine and Co-Chair of the NATO-Ukraine Inter-Parliamentary Council (UNIC)**, took part in the NATO Parliamentary Assembly's 2022 Spring Session in Vilnius, Lithuania. The session was set to take place in Kyiv. However, the location was changed after Russia launched a war against Ukraine. A variety of issues were discussed during the session, such as the war in Ukraine, world security, economic issues, food, and cybersecurity.<sup>1</sup> In addition, a delegation of Ukrainian parliamentarians met with Gerry Connolly, President of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly. During the meeting, Oleksandr Kornienko stressed the importance of the assembly's support for Ukraine and thanked Lithuania for raising five million euros for a Bayraktar for Ukraine.<sup>2,3</sup>



Photos: Verkhovna Rada ([https://www.rada.gov.ua/en/news/News/top\\_news/223334.html](https://www.rada.gov.ua/en/news/News/top_news/223334.html))

- **Ivanna Klympush-Tsintsadze, Chairwoman of the Committee on Ukraine's Integration into the EU**, took part in the 102<sup>nd</sup> German Catholic Congress. She thanked Germany for supporting Ukraine. She also reminded participants that the war in Ukraine did not begin on February 24, 2022, but in 2014, when Russia first attacked

<sup>1</sup> (UKR) <https://www.rada.gov.ua/news/Top-novyna/223315.html>

<sup>2</sup> (ENG) [https://www.rada.gov.ua/en/news/News/top\\_news/223334.html](https://www.rada.gov.ua/en/news/News/top_news/223334.html)

<sup>3</sup> (ENG) [https://www.rada.gov.ua/en/news/News/top\\_news/223333.html](https://www.rada.gov.ua/en/news/News/top_news/223333.html)

Ukraine. According to Ivanna Klympush-Tsintsadze, Ukraine's ability to resist Russia depends not only on Ukrainians and their heroism, but also on the unity of the West.<sup>4</sup>



Photos: Verkhovna Rada (<https://www.rada.gov.ua/news/razom/223324.html>)

- **Ruslan Stefanchuk, Chairman of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine**, thanked the parliaments of six countries (Canada, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, and the Czech Republic) for recognizing Russia's actions as genocide against the Ukrainian People.<sup>5</sup>
- **Roksolana Pidlasa, Deputy Chairwoman of the Committee on Economic Development, and Yulia Svyrydenko, Minister of Economic Development and Trade**, met with Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, Director-General of the WTO. They spoke about food security and the 20 million tons of grain blocked in Ukraine. In two weeks, the WTO Ministerial Conference will be held in Geneva. Unfortunately, Russia will be present at the conference. According to the Marrakesh Agreement, it is almost impossible to exclude a country from the WTO. However, Ukraine will seek to exclude Russia from all international organizations.<sup>6</sup>



Photo: Verkhovna Rada (<https://www.rada.gov.ua/news/razom/223307.html>)

<sup>4</sup> (UKR) <https://www.rada.gov.ua/news/razom/223324.html>

<sup>5</sup> (UKR) <https://www.rada.gov.ua/news/Top-novyna/223313.html>

<sup>6</sup> (UKR) <https://www.rada.gov.ua/news/razom/223307.html>

## Food crisis

- The most difficult sowing campaign in modern Ukrainian history continues. According to the Ministry of Agrarian Policy, the sowing of spring cereals and legumes was completed by 78% of last year's figures. Vinnytsia, Volyn, Zhytomyr, Kyiv, Poltava, Rivne, Ternopil, Khmelnytskyi, Cherkasy, and Chernivtsi regions increased the area of spring wheat from 5% to 10%.<sup>7</sup> As of May 25, 2022, farmers have received UAH 31.49 billion in loans (80% of this money comes from the portfolio guarantee program). In total, 13,016 farmers have received a loan.<sup>8</sup>



Photo: Verkhovna Rada (<https://www.rada.gov.ua/news/razom/223319.html>)

- According to **Yaroslav Yurchyshyn, First Deputy Chairman of the Committee on Anti-Corruption Policy**, 22 million tons of food have been blocked in Ukrainian ports. Russia has already stolen at least 400 to 500 thousand tons of grain, with the hopes of selling it to other states. Yaroslav Yurchyshyn called on other countries to not buy stolen Ukrainian grain from Russia, nor become complicit in Putin's terrible crimes.<sup>9</sup>

## Statements and appeals

- **Olena Kondratiuk, Deputy Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine**, spoke on Croatian television about her visit to Zagreb and meetings with Gordan Jandroković, Speaker of the Croatian Parliament, and Andrej Plenković, Prime Minister of Croatia. Olena Kondratiuk stressed that there have been no political discussions in the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine during the Russian invasion. She stated, "We are a united front. We have one political party – Ukraine. All branches of government in Ukraine are

<sup>7</sup> (UKR) <https://www.rada.gov.ua/news/razom/223319.html>

<sup>8</sup> (UKR) <https://www.rada.gov.ua/news/razom/223298.html>

<sup>9</sup> (UKR) <https://www.rada.gov.ua/news/razom/223293.html>



united in working with European friends and partners, such as Croatia, to grant Ukraine the status of a candidate for EU membership in June 2022.”<sup>10</sup>

(Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fq9QTEChxrM>)

- Many global companies have suspended their activities in Russia. However, more than 350 global companies continue to operate in Russia, including Buzzi Unicem (Italy), CANPACK (Poland), EMS-Chemie (Switzerland), Huntsman Corporation (USA), International Paper (USA), and Kronospan (Austria). Olena Moshenets, Deputy Chair of the Anti-Corruption Policy Committee, has called on these companies to leave Russia.<sup>11</sup>

### **Background on the weekly update on activity of Ukraine's Verkhovna Rada**

*Ukraine's democratically elected officials continue to perform their duties while enduring Russia's unprovoked and horrific invasion. These briefing notes provide the latest information about the legislative activities of the Verkhovna Rada.*

*Weekly briefing notes are 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 Stabilization 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.*

*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.*

*Every attempt is made to ensure the accuracy of all information, acknowledging the fluid humanitarian and security situation, the disruption of the flow of information and organized disinformation.*

<sup>10</sup> (video UKR/CRO) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fq9QTEChxrM>

<sup>11</sup> (UKR) <https://www.rada.gov.ua/news/razom/223316.html>