

June 9, 2022

## PARLIAMENT IN TIMES OF WAR

### A weekly update on legislative activity of Ukraine's Verkhovna Rada

#### RECENT HIGHLIGHTS

##### Oleksandr Kornienko meets with foreign politicians in Ukraine

Oleksandr Kornienko, First Deputy Speaker of Parliament, met with foreign politicians in Ukraine. This includes a delegation from the "People Power Party," the ruling party of the Republic of Korea and Hanno Pevkur, First Vice Speaker of the Riigikogu of Estonia. At the meetings, Oleksandr Kornienko discussed the supply of heavy weapons, sanctions policy, and assistance in the recovery of Ukraine.



Photos: Verkhovna Rada (<https://www.rada.gov.ua/news/Top-novyna/223700.html>)

Oleksandr Kornienko stated, "We are grateful that you responded to my invitation to come to Ukraine to see for yourself the consequences of the atrocities committed by the Russian military in the suburbs of Kyiv."

In addition, Oleksandr Kornienko and Hanno Pevkur visited Bucha and Irpin, towns in the Kyiv region that were liberated from the Russians.



Watch more here:

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0UjIwip01gQ>
- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7W7sJp7fER0&feature=emb\\_title](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7W7sJp7fER0&feature=emb_title)

## Ruslan Stefanchuk attends meetings, press conferences, and interviews in Europe

Photo: Verkhovna Rada (<https://www.rada.gov.ua/news/Top-novyna/223787.html>)



Ruslan Stefanchuk, Chairman of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, travelled to Europe and addressed the European Parliament on June 8, 2022. In his speech, he spoke about joining the EU, sanctions against Russia, and military aid to Ukraine.

While in Europe, he also conducted meetings with many foreign leaders, including representatives from the European Parliament, European Council, France, Germany, and Ireland.

Furthermore, Ruslan Stefanchuk held a press conference in the French Senate and took part in the opening of the 14<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Parliamentary Committee of the Ukraine-EU Association. He also was interviewed by Le Figaro, BFM, and POLITICO.



Watch more here:

Photo: Verkhovna Rada

(<https://www.rada.gov.ua/news/Top-novyna/223765.html>)

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G5YQej-khwk>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DUN2aGX6pN4>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BNk3eferuDk>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3eyyVEGLEpc>

Read more here:

- <https://www.rada.gov.ua/news/Top-novyna/223787.html>
- <https://www.rada.gov.ua/news/Top-novyna/223780.html>
- <https://www.rada.gov.ua/news/Top-novyna/223782.html>
- <https://www.rada.gov.ua/news/Top-novyna/223779.html>
- <https://www.rada.gov.ua/news/Top-novyna/223752.html>
- <https://www.rada.gov.ua/news/Top-novyna/223745.html>
- <https://www.pravda.com.ua/news/2022/06/3/7350295/>
- <https://www.rada.gov.ua/news/Top-novyna/223765.html>
- <https://www.rada.gov.ua/news/Top-novyna/223788.html>
- <https://www.lefigaro.fr/international/guerre-en-ukraine-la-pire-des-humiliations-est-celle-que-le-pouvoir-russe-inflige-a-son-peuple-20220607>

## Olena Kondratiuk travels to Slovenia, meets with representatives

Photo: Verkhovna Rada (<https://www.rada.gov.ua/news/Top-novyna/223728.html>)



Olena Kondratiuk, Deputy Chairwoman of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, travelled to Slovenia and met with Alois Kovšče (Speaker of the National Council), Urška Klakočar Zupančič (Speaker of the National Assembly), Vojko Volk (State Secretary for Foreign Policy), Tanja Fajon (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs), and Borut Pahor (President of the Republic of Slovenia).

They discussed a variety of topics during the meetings, including heavy weapons, sanctions, and Ukraine's integration into the EU.

Read/watch more here:

- <https://www.rada.gov.ua/news/Top-novyna/223736.html>
- <https://www.rada.gov.ua/news/Top-novyna/223728.html>
- <https://www.rada.gov.ua/news/Top-novyna/223723.html>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VvtGpo3MyMM>

### **An incident between Mariana Bezugla and Yuriy Butusov unfolded in Ukraine**

In May and June 2022, a political incident involving Yuriy Butusov, a Ukrainian journalist, and Mariana Bezugla, Deputy Chairwoman of the Verkhovna Rada Committee on National Security, Defense, and Intelligence, unfolded in Ukraine.

Mariana Bezugla registered Bill № 7351, which allows unit commanders to use weapons against soldiers who do not carry out orders. This bill caused an outrage and Yuriy Butusov expressed his disapproval of the bill via Facebook.

In response, Mariana Bezugla posted a message on Facebook and called on the head of the Security Service of Ukraine to investigate the activities of Yuriy Butusov. She accused him of leaking important and secret intelligence used by the Russians. Furthermore, Yuriy Butusov stated that he had been verbally banned from reporting at the front and can no longer record interviews with fighters.





Svitlana Matvienko, Executive Director of the Agency for Legislative Initiatives, criticized Mariana Bezugla's position and actions. In a post on Facebook, she wrote that Mariana Bezugla does not meet the ethical standards of a member of the Verkhovna Rada and, as a member of the parliamentary committee, has every opportunity to exercise adequate parliamentary control.

Read more here:

- [https://www.facebook.com/story.php?story\\_fbid=pfbid0B8wvEgt1PScmc54sM1FiUk4Y6osiiZ4ZhG46FsH8rSSGvRCgU3bgHuWBH2Y7wiEdl&id=100000909172681](https://www.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=pfbid0B8wvEgt1PScmc54sM1FiUk4Y6osiiZ4ZhG46FsH8rSSGvRCgU3bgHuWBH2Y7wiEdl&id=100000909172681)
- [https://www.facebook.com/story.php?story\\_fbid=pfbid0ys75v6P9ouTe2Uj7uWjDrSLZDyn73iQTP3eaANM6NebzqgLeD6CcYZsZK5hbDd5zl&id=1551784961](https://www.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=pfbid0ys75v6P9ouTe2Uj7uWjDrSLZDyn73iQTP3eaANM6NebzqgLeD6CcYZsZK5hbDd5zl&id=1551784961)
- [https://www.facebook.com/story.php?story\\_fbid=pfbid0ZDsb9nAcEjyW1nhMxUgRqFhSZZyREfgX6WwvebSnLdFmsGB9PCWwkpTpgFWdhHk9l&id=100000909172681](https://www.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=pfbid0ZDsb9nAcEjyW1nhMxUgRqFhSZZyREfgX6WwvebSnLdFmsGB9PCWwkpTpgFWdhHk9l&id=100000909172681)
- [https://www.facebook.com/story.php?story\\_fbid=pfbid07gYgnnwZq6o1t77hMES3dDor5TKqrur5a5PrRC7n4kT9e2rxyb2Vrgox2GMDWR9Tl&id=100000195374959](https://www.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=pfbid07gYgnnwZq6o1t77hMES3dDor5TKqrur5a5PrRC7n4kT9e2rxyb2Vrgox2GMDWR9Tl&id=100000195374959)

## SITTING OF THE RADA on May 31, 2022

### Legislative Work

- The Verkhovna Rada assembled for a plenary sitting on May 31, 2022. Nine bills were adopted, and five bills were adopted at the first reading. The adopted laws mainly focused on economic, budgetary, and symbolic issues. Also, two resolutions were approved.
- Adopted bills and treaties had support in the range of 238-322 votes.<sup>1</sup>
- For security reasons, the meeting was held in a semi-secret atmosphere. The meeting was not broadcast on television. In addition, the public was not informed about the date or time of the meeting. Information only began to appear during the session.

### Other Aspects of Work

- Zuzana Čaputová, President of the Slovak Republic, addressed the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine and delivered a live speech. The speech focused on the historical role of Ukraine, Ukrainian refugees, military assistance, documenting crimes, and grain exports.<sup>2</sup>  
(Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=za5B-u2ahbc>)

<sup>1</sup> 226 votes are needed to pass an ordinary law, and 300 votes are needed to pass amendments to the Constitution.

<sup>2</sup> (UKR video) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=za5B-u2ahbc>



- The Verkhovna Rada expressed its distrust in Lyudmyla Denisova, the Verkhovna Rada Commissioner for Human Rights, and she was dismissed from her position. The position currently is vacant and the issue of appointing someone new has not been discussed. The dismissal of Lyudmyla Denisova has sparked a debate regarding the legality of the dismissal during the war and the disadvantages of having a vacant position during the war.

### **Key issues covered by the adopted Laws included:**

#### Resolutions:

- № 7394 - Appeal to UNESCO to deprive Russia of the status of a UNESCO member state.
- № 7332 - Recommendation of the National Security and Defense Council to impose sanctions against representatives of the Russian Orthodox Church.

#### Adopted laws:

- №7413 - Increase in expenditures of the state budget's general fund of by more than UAH 287 million.
- №7401 - Creation of conditions for the production of technical alcohol.
- №7347 - Protected the interests of auditors and auditing entities during martial law.
- №5656 - Issue of crediting the administrative fee for state registration in the field of urban planning.
- №7307 - Expanding the list of cases of gratuitous transfer of property of enterprises of the defense-industrial complex.
- №4225 - Determination of legislative aspects (location, construction, maintenance, and protection) of the National Military Memorial Cemetery.
- №7342 - Money in ARMA accounts will be converted into military bonds.
- №5864 - Establishment of the holiday "Day of Ukrainian Statehood" (July 28).
- №6070-1 - Restoration of departmental registration of agricultural machinery.

#### Draft laws passed in the first reading (they have not yet become laws):

- Draft law №7363 - Provision of support and the development of volunteer activities in conditions of armed aggression.
- Draft law №7364 - Provision of support and the development of volunteer activities in conditions of armed aggression.
- Draft law № 7325 - Change in the length of the school year and the procedure for the liquidation of schools.
- Draft law № 7367 - Establishment of additional security guarantees for journalists working in areas of hostilities.

- Draft law № 6485 - Removal of barriers to energy efficiency and thermal modernization of residential and public buildings.

## Details

### Resolutions:

- № 7394 - Appeal to UNESCO to deprive Russia of the status of a UNESCO member state. The resolution notes that Russia has destroyed or damaged more than 250 cultural monuments in Ukraine, which includes churches, museums, monuments, theaters, libraries, and houses of culture. Therefore, Russia has no place in UNESCO.
- № 7332 - Recommendation of the National Security and Defense Council to impose sanctions against representatives of the Russian Orthodox Church.

### Adopted laws:<sup>3</sup>

- №7413 - Increase in expenditures of the general fund of the state budget by more than UAH 287 million. These are funds from external borrowings:
  - The main amount goes to defense and security (247.8 billion UAH). This includes the Ministry of Defense (UAH 166.1 billion), Ministry of Internal Affairs (UAH 76.4 billion), National Police (UAH 28.5 billion), National Guard (UAH 25 billion), SES (UAH 13.2 billion), State Border Guard Service (UAH 7.9 billion), and SBU (UAH 2.8 billion).
  - UAH 38.4 billion is allocated to social protection and social security. This includes transfers to the Pension Fund (UAH 20 billion), assistance to internally displaced people to cover living expenses (UAH 12.5 billion), and assistance to under the eSupport Program (UAH 5.8 billion).
  - Replenishment of the reserve fund by UAH 1.5 billion.
- №7401 - Creating conditions for the production of technical alcohol.
- №7347 - Protection of the interests of auditors and auditing entities during martial law.
- №5656 - Issue of crediting the administrative fee for state registration in the field of urban planning.
- №7307 - Expanding the list of cases of gratuitous transfer of property of enterprises of the defense-industrial complex:
  - To meet the needs of security and defense forces, simplifying the procedure for the transfer of property of state-owned enterprises of the defense industry during martial law.

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<sup>3</sup> Draft laws adopted only in the first reading were not included in the text, as their content may be changed before the second reading.

- o Permission to lease property without the use of competitive procedures.
- №4225 - Determination of legislative aspects (location, construction, maintenance, and protection) of the National Military Memorial Cemetery. The National Military Memorial Cemetery is a facility located on a specially designated plot of land, which includes a military cemetery, museum complex, and ritual building for the honorary burial of people who defended the independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity of Ukraine.
- №7342 - Money in ARMA accounts will be converted into military bonds. ARMA is the National Agency of Ukraine for Detection, Investigation, and Management of Assets Obtained from Corruption and Other Crimes. The rules that allow the military to buy bonds for the seized funds will be valid until the end of martial law.
- №5864 - Establishment of the holiday “Day of Ukrainian Statehood” (July 28). This national holiday will be celebrated annually on July 28. It will also be a day off.
- №6070-1 - Restoration of departmental registration of agricultural machinery:
  - o Allow private technical services and testing laboratories to test procedures for tractors. It also becomes an incentive to invest in technical laboratories, equipment, and relevant professional staff.
  - o Consolidate the ability of official dealers of agricultural machinery to carry out departmental state registration of new machinery, which they sell to farmers.
  - o Harmonization with EU technical regulations on the circulation of tractors.
  - o Solve the problem of obtaining certificates for new models of tractors. For almost a year, manufacturers and suppliers of equipment cannot obtain the relevant documents to pass to farmers.

### **An important note on the bill on remote voting**

**The bill on the introduction of remote voting was considered at this Rada sitting. This is a bill that was registered during the war at a new session, so it had to be included in the agenda (before considering the merits). However, MPs could not get enough votes. 178 MPs voted in favor, however 226+ votes were required to pass the bill. The bill is controversial, and many minority MPs oppose its adoption. These MPs are afraid of potential abuse by the ruling faction. Approximately one-sixth of the ruling Servant of the People party also did not support the bill.**



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## **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.*

*Previous PASS Ukraine briefs are available on our website:*

*<https://parlcent.org/parliament-in-times-of-conflict-a-weekly-update-on-legislative-activity-of-ukraines-verkhovna-rada/>*