

Ukraine-Russia

Factual update on international response

This document intends to provide an overview of official EU and international government measures taken in response to the Russian invasion of Ukraine. Among a lot of commentary and speculation on the crisis, this report focuses on official sources. H+K Brussels will share daily updates as long as the situation demands it.

- The Commission has drawn up a 10-point plan to reduce the EU's dependence on Russian gas. Final version expected on Wednesday 9 March.
- Foreign Affairs Ministers met on 4 March to further discuss the latest developments in Ukraine. Whilst no additional sanctions were decided, they stressed the need to establish a humanitarian corridor, as well as to support EU frontline member states hosting refugees from Ukraine.
- On 7 March, the Russian Government published an official list of foreign states it considers to be 'unfriendly.'

EU measures

Developments in EU institutions

On 4 March, the European Commission has drawn up a 10-point plan **to reduce the EU's dependence on Russian gas**, according to a [leaked draft communication](#). The document declares that *"the implementation of the Fit for 55 proposals will already lead to a reduction in the EU's reliance on gas by 23% by 2030."* An official version of this energy communication is expected this Wednesday (9 March).

On 4 March, EU Foreign Affairs Ministers met in an extraordinary [Foreign Affairs Council](#) to discuss the latest developments in Ukraine. Ministers called for a **humanitarian corridor** to be established and emphasized the need to further support EU frontline member states hosting the majority of Ukrainian refugees. Ministers also discussed further reducing the EU's energy dependency on Russia. The meeting was attended by US Secretary of State Antony Blinken, NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg, UK Foreign Secretary Liz Truss and Canada's Minister of Foreign Affairs Mélanie Joly.

EU Member States

Italian Foreign Minister Luigi Di Maio was in Qatar over the weekend and [announced](#) that Italy would be strengthening its energy partnership with the country. According to Di Maio, the partnership would counter the negative effects of the Russian attack on Ukraine on the energy sector.

On 5 March, **Swedish** Prime Minister Magdalena Andersson and Defence Minister Peter Hultqvist were [in Helsinki](#) to discuss the war in Ukraine with the **Finnish** government. Finnish Prime Minister Sanna Marin said that both countries will be enhancing cooperation following the Russian attack on Ukraine. Both leaders acknowledged that public opinion in their countries had changed when it came to NATO and that NATO membership had been discussed both in their bilateral meeting and within their own governments. But, they made no firm commitments as to whether either country would be joining the military alliance.

Denmark plans to hold a [referendum](#) on 1 June to overturn its opt out from EU defence policy.

Austrian Chancellor Karl Nehammer was in the UAE to [discuss](#) strengthening energy ties between both countries.

International measures

United Kingdom

To mobilise global leaders against Russia, UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson hosted a [joint press conference](#) with Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte in London on 7 March. Johnson said it is time for the world to stand up to Russia's brutal and illegal invasion of Ukraine. He announced \$100m

humanitarian aid in addition to providing training to Ukrainian soldiers and supplying them with more weapons. The UK also pledged up to \$500 million of Multilateral Development Bank financing.

Canada

On 7 March, **Prime Minister Justin Trudeau** [announced](#) sanctions on a further 10 Russians including former and current government officials that closely support President Putin. Trudeau said the designated individuals were suggested by Alexei Navalny, the Russian opposition leader.

US

On 5 March, President Joe Biden had a phone call with Ukrainian President Zelenskyy and [commended](#) the bravery of the Ukrainian people and military. President Biden also condemned Russia and expressed concerns over the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant which was attacked by Russian forces last week. Biden welcomed the decision by Visa and Mastercard to halt their services in Russia and noted that he is working closely with allies and partners to inflict even more economic pain on Russia for invading Ukraine.

Upon his visit to Moldova on 6 March, US Secretary Antony Blinken [pledged](#) to increase pressure on Russia through further sanctions and warned that Russia has a military advantage that the European allies are finding difficult to counter. Therefore, the conflict in Ukraine may last for some time.

Russian retaliatory measures

On 7 March, the Russian Government [published](#) an official list of foreign states it considers to be 'unfriendly.' Business dealings in Russia involving these countries will now require special government authorisation.

The full [list](#) of countries and territories considered unfriendly by the Russian government includes: Australia, Albania, Andorra, United Kingdom, including Jersey, Anguilla, British Virgin Islands, Gibraltar, the member states of the European Union, Iceland, Canada, Liechtenstein, Micronesia, Monaco, New Zealand, Norway, Republic of Korea, San Marino, North Macedonia, Singapore, the United States, Taiwan, Ukraine, Montenegro, Switzerland and Japan.

Upcoming meetings

7 March – [European Parliament](#) (agenda can be found [here](#))

- Parliamentary Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI) will convene an extraordinary meeting.
 - Exchange of views with Executive Vice-President Frans Timmermans on the effects of the war in Ukraine on climate policies and on the European Green Deal.
 - Kick-off (+/- 19:15 local time, Strasbourg)
 - End of meeting (+/- 20:45 local time, Strasbourg)
 - Meeting will be livestreamed (watch [here](#))

8 March – [European Parliament](#) (agenda can be found [here](#))

- Plenary session:
 - MEPs will debate about the deterioration of the situation of refugees as a consequence of the Russian aggression against Ukraine and the rising energy prices and market manipulation on the gas market.
 - Kick-off (+/- 15:00 local time, Strasbourg)
 - End of meeting (23:00 local time, Strasbourg)
 - The Plenary will be livestreamed [here](#)

9 March – [European Parliament](#) (agenda can be found [here](#))

- Plenary session:



- MEPs will debate with Prime Minister of Estonia, Kaja Kallas, about the EU's role in a changing world and the security situation of Europe following the Russian aggression and invasion of Ukraine.
- Kick-off (+/- 10:30 local time, Strasbourg)
- End of meeting (TBC, Strasbourg)
- The Plenary will be livestreamed [here](#)
- European Commission set to issue its proposal for a Joint European Action for more affordable, secure and sustainable energy

10-11 March – European Council (announcement can be found [here](#))

- Informal meeting of EU heads of state and government.
 - Kick-off (TBC, Versailles, France)

16 March – NATO (announcement can be found [here](#))

- Defense Ministers meeting with the Ministers of Defense from every NATO member state.
 - Kick-off (TBC, Brussels)
 - End of meeting (TBC, Brussels)