



## News Brief Update 19

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### Russia's war with Ukraine

In the continuing war of attrition in the Donbas, Russia appeared to be gaining the upper hand, with Ukraine now pinning its hopes on receiving increased international military support. Russia has been able to leverage its relative artillery and air superiority to make incremental gains across the Donbas region. Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskiy [said](#) the outcome of the battle for the Donbas region will determine the course of the war, adding that Ukraine's forces are suffering "painful losses" in Sievierodonetsk and Lysychansk. Ukraine has so far defied a Russian ultimatum to surrender Sievierodonetsk, with Moscow [reportedly](#) controlling 80% of the city, a focal point of Russia's advances in the east of the country.

According to Western military analyses, Ukraine's counter-offensives in Kharkiv and Kherson were constrained by the country's lack of heavy weapons and ammunition. This is leading to [calls](#) for the expansion of Western military industrial capacity so that the US and other NATO allies can act as the 'arsenal of democracy' in defence of Ukraine, as well as prepare for future wars between peer or near-peer adversaries, such as Russia and China. Messages about the course of the war continued to be mixed, however.

According to the head of the UK's armed forces Admiral Sir Tony Radakin, Russia has failed in Ukraine and is now a "more diminished power". Admiral Radakin [said](#) Vladimir Putin had lost 25% of Russia's land power for only "tiny" gains. While Russia may achieve "tactical successes" in the coming weeks, he said any notion that the war had been a success was "nonsense". NATO Secretary General Jens

Stoltenberg [said](#) "We must prepare for the fact that it could take years. We must not let up in supporting Ukraine", adding "Even if the costs are high, not only for military support, also because of rising energy and food prices". Mikhail Kasyanov, Russia's prime minister from 2000 to 2004, said he expects the war in Ukraine could last up to two years. Kasyanov, who championed close ties with the west while prime minister, [said](#) he felt that Vladimir Putin was already not thinking properly and that he was convinced Russia could return to a democratic path.

On the economic front, evidence continues to suggest that sanctions are [not working](#), while support for Putin and the war in Russia remains [strong](#) (see below). Moreover, Europe's unity over the war in Ukraine is at risk as public attention shifts from the battlefield to cost of living concerns, [polling](#) across 10 European countries suggested. The survey found support for Ukraine remained high, but preoccupations have shifted to the conflict's wider impacts, with the divide deepening between voters who want a swift end to the conflict and those who want Russia punished.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov [said](#) Russia is "not ashamed of showing who we are" in an interview with the BBC on 17 June. "We didn't invade Ukraine, we declared a special military operation because we had absolutely no other way of explaining to the west that dragging Ukraine into NATO was a criminal act", he said. Meanwhile, Pope Francis [said](#) Moscow's invasion of Ukraine was "perhaps somehow provoked" as he recalled a conversation in the run-up to the war in which

he was warned that NATO was “barking at the gates of Russia”.

### ***The continuing absence of peace talks***

Ukraine and Russia have held intermittent peace talks since the end of February 2022, but there has been little communication between them in recent weeks and the positions of the leaders appear to have hardened. Ukrainian peace talks negotiator Mykhailo Podolyak [dismissed](#) Russia’s most recent comments about being willing to continue negotiations as “an attempt to deceive the world”. Russia, he said, wanted to give the impression of being ready to talk while planning to stab Ukraine in the back.

Although there have been [reports](#) of US officials meeting with their European counterparts to discuss “potential frameworks for a ceasefire and for ending the war through a negotiated settlement”, there appears to be no real prospect for any diplomatic breakthroughs or ceasefires in the near future. France and Germany lead a NATO bloc favouring negotiations, while the US and UK lead a bloc that may favour continuing to send more advanced weapons. One of the potential frameworks being discussed for a negotiated settlement is a four-point Italian proposal, calling for Ukraine committing to neutrality and not joining NATO, security guarantees for Ukraine, and negotiations between Ukraine and Russia on Crimea and the Donbas (see [NATO Watch Update 16](#)). Speaking to German news agency DPA on 17 June, German chancellor, Olaf Scholz, [said](#): “It is absolutely necessary to speak to Putin, and I will continue to do so, as the French president will also”.

### ***Military and financial assistance to Ukraine***

During a NATO Defence Ministers [meeting](#) in Brussels on 15 June, NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg condemned “a relentless war of attrition against Ukraine” being waged by Russia, and said the alliance continued to offer “unprecedented support so it can defend itself against Moscow’s aggression”. Stoltenberg added that NATO allies would continue to supply Ukraine with heavy weapons and long-

range systems, with an agreement on a new package of assistance to Kyiv expected at the summit in Madrid later this month. The agreement would help Ukraine move from old Soviet-era weaponry to “more modern NATO standard” equipment, he said. The US Defence Secretary, Lloyd Austin, [said](#) Ukraine was facing a “pivotal moment on the battlefield” in Sievierodonetsk, with Russian forces using long-range weapons to try to overwhelm Ukrainian positions. Austin urged America and its allies not to “let up and lose steam” and to “intensify our shared commitment to Ukraine’s self-defence”.

In the side lines of the NATO meeting in Brussels there was a [third meeting](#) of the US-led Ukraine Defence Contact Group to discuss Ukraine’s urgent request for military equipment. (Ukrainian Presidential Adviser Mykhailo Podolyak [said](#) on 13 June that Ukraine needed 1,000 drones, 500 tanks, and 1,000 howitzers). Some 45 countries participated, including Ukraine, and several new announcements of support were made. Most notably, the United States [agreed](#) to send \$1 billion in additional military assistance to Ukraine, including 18 additional howitzers with tactical vehicles to tow them, 36,000 rounds of 155mm ammunition for the howitzers, and two Harpoon coastal defence systems, the US Defense Department said. The United States will also send \$225 million more humanitarian aid to Ukraine for food, medical supplies and safe drinking water. It was also [reported](#) that the Pentagon is considering sending four additional rocket launchers to Ukraine (in addition to the four already sent). The decision would be “based on Ukrainian immediate needs”, an unnamed US official said. However, the Biden administration’s plan to sell four large, weapons-capable drones to Ukraine was [reportedly](#) paused over the fear its sophisticated surveillance equipment might fall into Russian hands.

The UK has purchased and refurbished more than 20 long-range guns (M109s) from a Belgian arms company which it is sending to Ukraine, Britain’s Defence Secretary Ben Wallace, [said](#). Russia outnumbers Ukraine in artillery fire by 20 to 1 in some areas but allies

are beginning to give Ukraine the long-range artillery and rocket systems that will enable its forces to win, he added. In addition, the British defence company QinetiQ will supply Ukraine with 10 Talon sapper robots for de-mining purposes, Ukrainian authorities [announced](#) on 12 June. The first deputy head of Ukraine's patrol police, Oleksiy Biloshitsky, said: "Talon will be deployed to de-mine Ukraine. This is a sapper robot that not only locates 'gifts' but also neutralises them. Before the war we had already had more than a dozen of them, now QinetiQ will deliver 10 more".

During a joint visit to Ukraine with the leaders of Germany, Italy, and Romania on 16 June, French President Emmanuel Macron [said](#) France will send Ukraine six additional truck-mounted artillery guns.

For further details on arms transfers to Ukraine, see, the [Forum on the Arms Trade](#)

Ukraine's President Zelenskiy [appeared](#) as a hologram while referencing Star Wars in an attempt to secure more aid from big tech firms. Addressing the VivaTech trade show in Paris on 16 June, Zelenskiy said that Ukraine was offering technology firms a unique chance to rebuild the country as a fully digital democracy. Meanwhile, Ukraine has received a \$733 million loan from Canada. In a [statement](#) released on 17 June, Ukraine's finance ministry said the funds, which were "raised in accordance with the loan agreement between Ukraine and Canada", would be "directed to the state budget to finance priority expenditures – in particular, to ensure priority social and humanitarian expenditures".

### ***Civilians trapped in a chemical factory***

Thousands of civilians, including women, children and elderly people, are trapped in Sievierodonetsk with a diminishing supply of food, clean water, sanitation and electricity. An urgent situation is developing in the bunkers beneath the Azot chemical plant in the city, a UN spokesperson [said](#). Luhansk governor Serhiy Haidai told CNN that 568 people, including 38 children were taking refuge in the

plant. But it was [reported](#) on 17 June that they were unable to evacuate because of the sustained Russian artillery barrages. A pro-Russian separatist leader claimed Russian-backed forces would reopen a humanitarian corridor for civilians to leave the plant.

### ***Casualties and refugees***

Exact figures for the number of fatalities, both military and civilian, are difficult to verify and confirm. [Undercounting and manipulation](#) of the data is common in war. [UN figures](#) revealed that, as 10 June, 4,339 civilians have died since Russia first invaded Ukraine in February, including 274 children. The actual figures are likely to be considerably higher, as the receipt of information from some locations where intense hostilities have been going on has been delayed and many reports are still pending corroboration. According to [Action on Armed Violence](#) (AOAV) the number of casualties from explosive violence in the Ukrainian conflict reached 4,084 people by 15 June. From this number, 1,981 were killed and 2,103 were injured across 488 incidents. Ninety-seven per cent (3,948) of civilian casualties have occurred in populated areas.

### ***Treatments of POWs***

Russia and Ukraine carried out a prisoner exchange on 18 June, the Kyiv Independent reported. Five captured Ukrainian individuals were returned to Ukraine in exchange for five captured Russian individuals, according to the Ukrainian defence ministry's intelligence directorate. Two senior Ukrainian commanders of fighters who defended the Azovstal steel plant in Mariupol have been transferred to Russia for investigation, Russia's state news agency TASS [reported](#) on 18 June.

### ***Russian activities in occupied parts of Ukraine***

According to Kirill Stremousov, deputy head of the Russian-imposed military-civilian administration in the occupied Kherson region, children born in Ukraine's Kherson region since 24 February will automatically receive Russian citizenship (a claim later denied by a Russian senator). He also claimed that thousands of

citizens in the territory were applying for Russian citizenship. Ukraine has repeatedly [accused](#) Russia of abducting children from its territory and transferring them into Russia.

### ***EU candidate status for Ukraine***

On 17 June, the European Commission [said](#) Ukraine should be given candidate status to join the EU. The Commission also recommended candidate status for Moldova, but gave a more guarded response to Georgia, saying the country needed to carry out further anti-corruption and judicial reforms. EU leaders will decide next week whether to grant the three states EU candidate status, although full membership would be likely to take years. The leaders of France, Germany, Italy and Romania have already [vowed](#) to support Ukraine's bid to join the EU during their visit to Kyiv on 16 June. Macron said all four EU leaders present supported the idea of granting an "immediate" EU candidate status to Ukraine. According [to recent polls](#), Ukraine's EU accession aspirations are also endorsed by the vast majority of European people.

President Putin said Moscow has "nothing against" Ukraine's possible membership of the EU. He made the comments during Russia's annual economic forum in St Petersburg. "It's their sovereign decision to join economic unions or not ... It's their business, the business of the Ukrainian people", he [said](#).

### ***China's support for Russia***

Chinese President Xi Jinping [voiced](#) his support for Russia while on a telephone call with Russian President Vladimir Putin on 15 June. In response to the news, a US State Department spokesperson said that nations that side with Russia are on "the wrong side of history". The Chinese government has tried to avoid sanctions from the West while balancing its close ties with Russia since the invasion of Ukraine.

## **Further reading:**

### **On outcomes and consequences of the war**

[UK, NATO warn of long Ukraine war as Zelenskyy visits front lines](#), Al Jazeera, 19 June 2022

Alex Vershinin, [The Return of Industrial Warfare](#), RUSI Commentary, 17 June 2022

Mart Kuldkepp, [Permanent Neutrality for Ukraine is a Chimera](#), RUSI Commentary, 15 June 2022

Connor Echols, [Smith bucks Biden, says Ukraine needs long-range missiles and killer drones](#), Responsible Statecraft, 15 June 2022

[Secretary General participates in Ukraine Defense Contact Group meeting](#), NATO News Release, 15 June 2022

Connor Echols, [Will Erdogan be the biggest winner in the Ukraine crisis?](#) Responsible Statecraft, 15 June 2022

Oleksandr Danylyuk, [Russia's Ukraine Invasion: The Most Dangerous Phase is Upon Us](#), RUSI Commentary, 14 June 2022

Jack Watling, [Macron Must Avoid the Immolation of French Influence](#), RUSI Commentary, 14 June 2022

Adam Aliano, [Is Russia Exploiting a Gap in the Montreux Convention?](#), Lawfare, 14 June 2022

Basil Gavalas and Dr Greg Mills, [Can Ukraine Catalyse Something Better?](#) RUSI Commentary, 13 June 2022

[Mexican president slams NATO policy in Ukraine](#), Associated Press, 13 June 2022

Markus Ziener, [Missing in Action in Ukraine: German Leadership](#), GMF Commentary, 13 June 2022

Liana Fix and Michael Kimmage, [What If Ukraine Wins? Victory in the War Would Not End the Conflict with Russia](#), Foreign Affairs, 6 June 2022

### **On investigations of war crimes in Ukraine and other legal processes**

Ukrainian authorities said they [discovered](#) a new mass grave of civilians near Bucha in the Kyiv region. Investigators exhumed seven bodies from makeshift graves in a forest

outside the village of Vorzel, less than 10km from Bucha, the scene of previous alleged Russian atrocities. About 1,200 bodies, including those found in mass graves, have not yet been identified, [according](#) to the head of the national police in Ukraine, Ihor Klymenko. Criminal proceedings had been opened over the deaths of more than 12,000 Ukrainians, Klymenko said. About 75% of the dead were men, 2% children and the rest women, he said.

Amnesty International [accused](#) Russia of war crimes in Ukraine's second largest city of Kharkiv. Hundreds of civilians have been killed by indiscriminate Russian shelling using widely banned cluster munitions and inherently inaccurate rockets, the agency said in a new report published on 13 June. "Russian forces launched a relentless campaign of indiscriminate bombardments against Kharkiv. They shelled residential neighbourhoods almost daily, killing and injuring hundreds of civilians and causing wholesale destruction, often using widely banned cluster munitions".

Western countries have been vociferous in their condemnation of alleged war crimes in Ukraine, yet the perception in many countries in the Global South is of [Western hypocrisy](#) on this issue. Since 2010, the Watson Institute at Brown University in the United States has been running the 'Cost of War Project', tracking and analysing the wars of the 21st century. In its recent [study](#) of the first two decades since 9/11, it reports that more than 929,000 people, including at least 387,000 civilians, have been killed by direct violence in US wars in Iraq, Afghanistan, Syria, Yemen and Pakistan. It was WikiLeaks that revealed that US forces were killing civilians in large numbers in the Afghanistan and Iraq wars. However, on 18 June, UK Home Secretary Priti Patel [announced](#) that the British government had approved the extradition of Wikileaks founder Julian Assange to the United States. Assange has 14 days to appeal the decision, according to the Home Office. Journalist Peter Osborne [said](#) the decision "turns investigative journalism into a criminal act, and licenses the United States to mercilessly hunt down offenders wherever they can be found, bring

them to justice and punish them with maximum severity".

A Russian spy tried and failed to secure an internship at the International Criminal Court (ICC) using the false identity as a Brazilian citizen that he had built up for as long as a decade, [according](#) to Dutch intelligence.

### **On the risk of nuclear war**

The global nuclear arsenal is expected to grow in the coming years for the first time since the cold war, and the risk of such weapons being used is the greatest in decades, the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute [said](#) on 13 June. Russia's invasion of Ukraine and western support for Kyiv has heightened tensions among the world's nine nuclear-armed states.

### **On sanctions against Russia and post-war reconstruction in Ukraine**

Russia's invasion of Ukraine galvanized the US, UK and EU, and a handful of other Western-aligned countries, to unleash a series of sanctions meant to punish Vladimir Putin's government and pressure him to pull his forces back. However, rather than dissuading the Kremlin as intended, the penalties appear instead to be exacerbating inflation, worsening food insecurity and punishing ordinary Russians more than Putin or his allies. Moreover, Russia has claimed (see NATO Watch [Update 17](#) and [Update 18](#)) that it is getting more revenue from its fossil fuel sales now than before its invasion of Ukraine, despite (or partly because of) Western sanctions. According to a [report](#) by the Finnish Center for Research on Energy and Clean Air, Russia received \$97 billion in revenue from fossil fuel exports in the first 100 days following its invasion of Ukraine. The volume of Russian fuel exports fell 15% in May in comparison to levels before the invasion, as pressure from the West has led countries to reduce their reliance on Russian energy. China was the largest importer followed by Germany, with \$13 billion worth of fossil fuels and \$12.6 billion respectively.

The UK [announced](#) a fresh wave of sanctions against Russia aimed at people involved with the “barbaric treatment of children in Ukraine”. Those targeted by sanctions include the Russian children’s rights commissioner, Maria Lvova-Belova, military commanders, Vladimir Mikhailovich and Patriarch Kirill, the head of the Russian Orthodox church.

According to [reports](#), Lithuania has told the Russian region of Kaliningrad it will block the import and export of a large number of goods by rail because of western sanctions, the regional governor said on 17 June. The region is home to the Russian Baltic fleet and a deployment location for nuclear-capable Iskander missiles. Governor Anton Alikhanov said the clampdown was “a most serious violation” to free transit and would affect 40-50% of the products imported to and exported from Russia through Lithuania.

Daniel Larison, [We should’ve known sanctions on Russia wouldn’t work as intended](#), Responsible Statecraft, 17 June 2022

[Corporate ‘Self-Sanctioning’ of Russia Has US Fearing Economic Blowback](#), Bloomberg, 14 June 2022

Barry Eichengreen, [Should Russia pay reparations for the Ukraine war?](#) The Guardian, 13 June 2022

### **On energy security in Europe**

Russia [warned](#) that gas flows to Europe via the Nord Stream 1 pipeline could be suspended, blaming problems with turbine repairs. Russia’s ambassador to the EU, Vladimir Chizhov, told the state-owned news agency Ria that a complete halt in gas flows in the pipeline, which supplies gas from Russia to Europe under the Baltic Sea, would be a “catastrophe” for Germany. Canada says it is in active discussions with Germany about a Siemens-made turbine equipment undergoing maintenance in Canada and unable to return due to sanctions. Meanwhile, on 15 June a trilateral natural gas [agreement](#) between Israel, Egypt and the EU was established in an attempt to provide an alternative to Russian energy. The agreement will allow for an increase in Israeli natural gas through existing

pipelines to Egypt, before making its way to Europe. European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen tweeted, “This will contribute to our energy security. And we are building infrastructure fit for renewables—the energy of the future,” in reference to the deal.

### **On international food security and Ukrainian grain exports**

Ukraine’s Black Sea ports have been blocked since Russia invaded, with more than 20 million tonnes of grain stuck in silos in the country (see NATO Watch [Update 17](#) and [Update 18](#)). Ukraine has established two routes through Poland and Romania to export grain, although bottlenecks have slowed the supply chain, Kyiv’s deputy foreign minister [said](#) on 12 June. Three days later, President Biden [proposed](#) that temporary silos could be built along the border with Ukraine to help export more grain. This would prevent Russia from stealing Ukrainian grain and ensure the winter harvest is not lost due to a lack of storage, US agriculture secretary Tom Vilsack [said](#) on 16 June. However, Poland’s agriculture minister, Henryk Kowalczyk, [said](#) building grain silos at the Polish-Ukrainian border would take three to four months.

On 15 June Turkey [said](#) it was ready to host a meeting with the United Nations, Russia and Ukraine to organise the export of grain through the Black Sea, adding that safe routes could be formed without needing to clear mines around Ukrainian ports. Ankara’s Foreign Minister, Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu, said it would “take some time” to de-mine Ukraine’s ports. “Since the location of the mines is known, certain safe lines would be established at three ports”, he said. “Ships, with the guidance of Ukraine’s research and rescue vessels as envisaged in the plan, could thus come and go safely to ports without a need to clear the mines.”

### **On developments within Ukraine**

Ukraine has lost a quarter of its arable land since the Russian invasion, notably in the south and east, deputy agriculture minister Taras Vysotskiy [said](#). At a news conference on 13 June, Vysotskiy insisted food security for the

country's population was not under immediate threat: "Crop planting this year is more than sufficient [and] the current situation of crop planting areas ... does not pose a threat to Ukraine's food security".

Officials in Kyiv have [started](#) to store data outside of Ukraine as a measure to guard against Russian cyber attacks. Approximately 150 registries from Ukrainian ministries have been moved abroad since the war's start, according to the country's deputy minister of digital transformation. Moving the data to the cloud also protects databases from damage by Russian missiles, which had been an issue for the government in the early days of the war.

### **On developments within Russia**

[Speaking](#) at the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva on 13 June, the UN High Commissioner on Human Rights, Michelle Bachelet, described the "arbitrary arrests" of a "large number" of anti-war protesters in Russia as "worrying". Bachelet also expressed concern about the "increase of censorship and restrictions on independent media" in Russia. Meanwhile, the Wikimedia Foundation, which owns Wikipedia, has filed an appeal against a Moscow court decision demanding that it remove information related to the Russian invasion of Ukraine. The foundation [argued](#) that people have a right to know the facts of the war and that removing information is a violation of human rights.

Measuring public opinion is never straightforward and, in an autocracy such as modern Russia, it is especially problematic. According to this [analysis](#), one of Russia's few remaining independent pollsters claims it was able to increase candour by switching from telephone interviews to in-person visits. Its work over the last few months suggest: Supporters of the war outnumber opponents, probably by a ratio of around 2:1; Vastly more Russians blame the United States, NATO and Ukraine for the destruction than blame the Kremlin; Support for the war is segmented by age, with older Russians more supportive than the young; and Most Russians believe Russia will defeat Ukraine. This analysis concluded

that popular support for the government's actions, though not especially deep, remains widespread, and state repression has been an effective means of stamping out most open opposition. However, more than 15,000 millionaires are expected to flee Russia this year, as wealthy citizens turn their back on Putin's regime, according to an [analysis](#) of migration data by London-based firm Henley & Partners.

Jailed Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny has [reportedly](#) been moved to maximum-security prison. Navalny was moved to the IK-6 prison in the village of Melekhovo in the Vladimir region, Russian news agencies reported, citing Sergei Yazhan, chairman of the regional Public Monitoring Commission. On 14 June, Russia [banned](#) 29 British journalists and defence industry figures from entering the country, calling it a response to western sanctions and pressure on its state-run media outlets abroad

Daniel Freeman, [How do regular Russians feel about the war in Ukraine?](#), Responsible Statecraft, 17 June 2022

Emily Ferris, [How Extreme Views on Ukraine and the West Went Mainstream in Russia](#), RUSI Commentary, 16 June 2022

[Alexei Navalny reportedly moved to high-security prison in Russia](#), The Guardian, 15 June 2022

### **On developments within NATO**

NATO Defence Ministers on 16 June discussed ways to bolster forces and deterrence along the military alliance's eastern borders in the wake of Russia's invasion of Ukraine. The meeting came ahead of a NATO summit in Madrid on 28-30 June that will seek to set a roadmap for the alliance in coming years, although former US Ambassador to NATO, Robert Hunter, [called](#) for the Summit to be postponed to avoid exposure to "all the cleavages" within the alliance and to prevent even more.

The Baltics, with a combined population of just over six million, want the alliance to boost its pre-Ukraine invasion presence of around 5,000 multinational soldiers by as much as tenfold, as

well as adding air and maritime defences. Many of NATO's 30 member states support the calls for a bigger force in principle, but are likely to commit to maintaining higher troop levels, pre-positioning more equipment, weapons and ammunition in the region and promising rapid reinforcements. The broad outline to be agreed at the Summit is a model of larger multinational NATO battlegroups in the Baltics, with a commitment to quickly reinforce if Russia were about to invade. Planning for new air and maritime defences will come later.

According to the Danish military, a Russian warship [violated](#) Danish territorial waters twice on 17 June. The incident occurred near a democracy festival where senior officials and business people were gathered on the Baltic Sea island of Bornholm. The Russian embassy in Denmark said that the Danish Government lacks evidence to support the accusation. The tensions in the Baltic Sea come after Denmark started sending Harpoon missiles to Ukraine to help the country defend against the Russian invasion.

[NATO Defence Ministers discuss further support for Ukraine and preparations for the Madrid Summit](#), NATO Watch Briefing no. 95, 17 June 2022

Robert E. Hunter, [This year's NATO summit should be postponed](#), Responsible Statecraft, 17 June 2022

[Readout](#) of Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin III's Participation in NATO Defense Ministerial, 17 June 2022

[Stoltenberg Details NATO Progress in Deterrence, Defense](#), US Department of Defense News Release, 17 June 2022

[Estonian defmin at NATO meeting: Credible deterrence provides feeling of security](#), Baltic Times, 17 June 2022

Karolina MacLachlan, [Protection of Civilians: a constant in the changing security environment](#), NATO Review, 17 June 2022

[Azerbaijan, NATO discuss cooperation in military education sphere](#), Azer News, 17 June 2022

[NATO to boost military forces and equipment on its eastern flank](#), Euro News, 16 June 2022

Sabine Siebold and Robin Emmott, [Britain, Germany ready to lead bigger combat units in Baltics](#), Reuters, 16 June 2022

Kolinda Grabar-Kitarović, [NATO Must Ensure Defense and Civilian Industries Work Together](#), Defense One, 16 June 2022

[Six Allies to explore innovative solutions for their future helicopters](#), NATO News Release, 16 June 2022

[NATO Defence Ministers lay the ground for the Madrid Summit](#), NATO News Release, 16 June 2022

Robin Emmott and Andrius Sytas, [The Baltic states want more NATO. They won't get all they seek](#), Reuters, 15 June 2022

[Japan to attend NATO summit for first time](#), Al Jazeera, 15 June 2022

[NATO Secretary General previews meeting of Allied Defence Ministers](#), NATO News Release, 15 June 2022

[Pre-ministerial press conference](#) by NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg ahead of the meetings of NATO Defence Ministers, 15 June 2022

[Secretary General joins meeting of seven NATO Allies to prepare the Madrid Summit](#), NATO News Release, 15 June 2022

[NATO needs greater readiness, more weapons - military alliance chief](#), Reuters, 15 June 2022

[Group of NATO leaders pledge support for Ukraine](#), Associated Press, 14 June 2022

[Press moment](#) with NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg and Allied leaders in the Hague, 14 June 2022

Simon Tisdall, [Behind Nato's defensive 'shield' lies weakness and division. Ukraine will pay the price](#), The Observer, 12 June 2022

## **On Finland and Sweden joining NATO**

Finland and Sweden's historic moves to join NATO following Russia's invasion of Ukraine currently face opposition from Turkey, which is threatening to veto the enlargement of the military alliance. The Turkish opposition stems

from accusations launched by Ankara that both countries are harbouring people linked to groups it deems terrorists, including the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK), and has taken issue with Helsinki and Stockholm's decisions to halt arms exports to Turkey in 2019. At a news conference in Finland on 12 June, NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg [said](#) that the security concerns raised by Turkey "are legitimate". Then on 13 June, during a visit to Sweden he [said](#) that Sweden had taken important steps to meet Turkey's demands for approving Stockholm's NATO membership application. "I welcome that Sweden has already started to change its counter-terrorism legislation and that Sweden will ensure that the legal framework for arms export will reflect the future status as a NATO member with new commitments to allies", Stoltenberg said during a press conference with Swedish Prime Minister Magdalena Andersson. However, it was [reported](#) Turkey has said it is willing to delay Swedish and Finnish membership of NATO for more than a year unless it receives satisfactory assurances that the two Nordic countries are willing to address support for Kurdish groups it regards as terrorist organisations. Finland's prime minister [said](#) on 14 June that the applications could stall if the issue is not resolved before the NATO summit in Madrid.

Leaders of seven European NATO members pledged [support](#) for applications by Sweden and Finland to join the alliance. The support was voiced after an informal gathering at Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte's official residence in The Hague co-hosted by his Danish counterpart, Mette Frederiksen. The other leaders attending were Romania's president and the prime ministers of Belgium, Poland, Portugal and Latvia. "My message on Swedish and Finnish membership is that I strongly welcome that. It's an historic decision. It will strengthen them, it will strengthen us," Stoltenberg told reporters after the meeting.

[Turkey wants 'concrete steps' from Sweden, Finland over NATO bids](#), Al Jazeera, 15 June 2022

[Turkey threatens year's delay to Swedish and Finnish entry to Nato](#), The Guardian, 14 June 2022

Dan Caldwell and Russ Vought, [Finland and Sweden joining NATO won't make U.S. safer](#), Fox News, 13 June 2022

[NATO chief says Sweden has taken "important steps" to meet Turkey's demands](#), Reuters, 13 June 2022

[Joint press point](#) with NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg and the Prime Minister of Sweden, Magdalena Andersson, 13 June 2022

[NATO Secretary General: "Sweden and Finland's security matters for NATO"](#), NATO News Release, 13 June 2022

[Ukraine crisis: Finland to send more military equipment amid NATO ambitions](#), Business Standard, 12 June 2022

[NATO's Stoltenberg says Turkey's security concerns are legitimate](#), Al Jazeera, 12 June 2022

[NATO Secretary General visits Finland](#), NATO News Release, 12 June 2022

[Joint press point](#) with NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg and the President of Finland, Sauli Niinistö, 12 June 2022

[How will Sweden relate to NATO's nuclear weapons policy?](#) ICAN, 25 May 2022

[Should Finland and Sweden hold a referendum on NATO membership?](#) NATO Watch Briefing no. 93, 6 May 2022

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