



## News Brief Update 30

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### Russia's war with Ukraine

#### ***Ukraine seeks accelerated NATO application after Putin annexes occupied Ukrainian regions***

This week saw a major escalation in the conflict. On 30 September the Russian President Vladimir Putin signed decrees to formally annex four more areas of Ukraine – Kherson, Zaporizhzhia, Donetsk and Luhansk. The annexations were [described](#) by the NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg as “the largest attempted annexation of European territory by force since the second world war”. Putin presided over the signing ceremony in the Kremlin with the Russian-installed heads of the four regions, who afterwards gathered around Putin, linking hands and joining chants of “Russia! Russia!” with the applauding audience. A hastily organised series of [referenda](#) were held in these four partially-occupied areas of Ukraine over the last week—widely denounced by Ukraine and its allies as a sham (see [Update 29](#))—in order to claim a mandate for the territorial claims. According to Moscow the referendums yielded over 95 per cent support for absorption into Russia, but reports suggest that any voting that took place was heavily [coerced](#).

Putin later [addressed](#) crowds in Moscow's Red Square, where he vowed to “do everything” to “raise the level of security” in the four annexed territories. Speaking at a televised patriotic concert, the Russian leader said people in the regions had made a choice to rejoin their “historic motherland”. “Welcome home!” he said to the flag-waving crowd.

In response Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy [announced](#) in a video address in Kyiv

that his country was formally applying for fast-track membership of NATO. Zelenskyy accused Russia of brazenly rewriting history and redrawing borders “using murder, blackmail, mistreatment and lies”, adding that Ukraine would not hold any peace talks with Russia as long as Putin was president. The NATO Secretary General [accused](#) President Putin of provoking “the most serious escalation” of the war in Ukraine since it began, adding that NATO reaffirmed its “unwavering support” for Ukraine's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity. But there was no indication that Ukraine's request would advance its membership aspiration, which requires the unanimous support of the alliance's members. For many years several NATO member states have been reluctant to endorse Ukraine's membership bid since they would be compelled to actively defend the country against Russia – and they are probably even more unlikely to accept imminent NATO membership while Ukraine is in a state of war.

Stoltenberg reiterated the alliance's unchanging position that it is open to new members but shied away from directly endorsing Ukraine's bid. “Every democracy in Europe has the right to apply for NATO membership and NATO allies respect that right, and we have stated again and again that NATO's door remains open”, Stoltenberg told reporters in Brussels.

The annexations came after the Kremlin announced on 29 September that Putin had recognised Kherson and Zaporizhzhia as independent territories. This was an intermediary step needed before he could go

ahead with plans to unilaterally declare the next day that they are part of Russia. In February, Putin recognised the independence of the self-proclaimed republics of Donetsk and Luhansk, parts of which have been under Russian-backed separatist control since 2014.

The UN Secretary General António Guterres [warned](#) Russia on 29 September that the annexation would mark a “dangerous escalation” that would jeopardise the prospects for peace in the region, adding that it “would have no legal value and deserves to be condemned”. The US Secretary of State Antony Blinken, [said](#) the west would never recognise Russia’s annexation of Ukrainian territory, which he called part of a “diabolical scheme” by Moscow. Turkey, which has been at the centre of [mediation](#) between the west and Russia, also rejected the annexations, [calling](#) them a “grave violation” of international law. A western bid on 30 September to condemn the annexations at the UN Security Council was [vetoed](#) by Russia.

A week ago, President Putin announced a partial military mobilization to draft at least 300,000 people. This prompted widespread protest in Russia and a mass exodus of draft-age men. At least 200,000 Russians have [fled the country](#) over the past week. This all came after Ukraine launched a successful counteroffensive in the Kharkiv region, recapturing 3,400 square miles of land seized by Russia— more land than Russia had captured in the past five months. Further reported gains this week by Ukrainian forces included the [recapture](#) of the key north-eastern city of Lyman on 1 October. The Russian defeat in Lyman is an embarrassment for Putin, since the city forms part of the annexed Donetsk region that only the day before the Russian president had said was Russia’s “for ever”.

UN investigators are now uncovering [evidence](#) of potential war crimes (see below), including mass graves and suspected [torture](#) chambers in areas that had been under Russian occupation. In addition, dozens of people were [killed](#) in an alleged Russian missile attack on a civilian convoy near the city of Zaporizhzhia on

30 September. The attack hit people waiting in cars to cross into Russian-occupied territory so they could bring family members back across the frontlines.

### ***Stalled diplomacy***

The Russian annexations greatly complicate the search for an eventual peace settlement, as Ukraine and Western nations will not accept or recognize them. Negotiations between Ukraine and Russia took place for several months following the invasion, but they did not stop the war, and talks have been stalled ever since. There has been some [speculation](#) that a tentative [fifteen-point peace plan](#) to end the war was close to being agreed at the end of March, but that the UK and USA reportedly urged President Zelensky to break off the talks with Russia. Before that, negotiations on Donbas had lasted for more than seven years with French and German participation; but despite signed agreements and a ceasefire, the conflict was never resolved. Each side blames the other for a lack of progress and there appears to be no real prospect for any diplomatic breakthroughs or ceasefires in the near future. Positions between the two sides remain incompatible.

A new [poll](#) conducted by Data for Progress on behalf of the Quincy Institute for Responsible Statecraft found that nearly 60% of Americans would support the United States engaging in diplomatic efforts “as soon as possible” to end the war in Ukraine, even if that means Ukraine having to make concessions to Russia. The survey also found that 49% said the Biden administration and Congress have not done enough diplomatically to help end the war (37% said they had).

For options of what a possible settlement for Ukraine might look like, see Cambridge University’s [Ukraine Peace Settlement Project](#).

### ***Military assistance to Ukraine***

Ukraine continues to rely heavily on international military and financial support from Western states. Most of the military assistance has come in the form of bilateral

arms transfers, training and other support, which is being coordinated by the US-led Ukraine Defence Contact Group, which meets on an ad hoc basis and involves Ministers of Defence and senior military officials from Western-aligned states from around the world. In addition, NATO agreed at its June [Madrid Summit](#) to strengthen a 2016 [Comprehensive Assistance Package](#) for Ukraine. The additional elements to the package include both short-term assistance (ranging from fuel, protective equipment to portable anti-drone systems and secure communications) and longer-term support (to help modernize the Ukrainian armed forces to NATO interoperability standards and strengthen its defence and security institutions).

The United States has [pledged](#) about \$25 billion in military aid to Ukraine—more than four times Ukraine’s 2021 defence budget. America’s partners in Europe and beyond have [pledged](#) an additional \$12 billion, according to the Kiel Institute for the World Economy. The US Congress this week [approved](#) an estimated \$12 billion in new economic aid and military assistance to Ukraine, as part of a short-term government funding bill. In addition, on 26 September, the US [announced](#) a new \$457.5 million civilian security aid package. The support was aimed at “saving lives” and “bolstering” Ukrainian law enforcement, said the US Secretary of State Antony Blinken. On the same day, the Netherlands [announced](#) unspecified new military support for Ukraine, as well as new sanctions in response to Russia’s mobilisation and referendums.

External military support to Russia so far has been limited to a handful of states, principally [Iran](#) and [North Korea](#). It was [reported](#) that Russia is escalating its use of Iranian-supplied “kamikaze” drones in southern Ukraine, including against the southern port of Odesa and the nearby city of Mykolaiv.

For further details on arms transfers to Ukraine, see, the [Forum on the Arms Trade](#). And for a timeline of every US arms shipment to Ukraine that has been announced since the war began, see [here](#).

### ***Humanitarian consequences of the war***

Exact figures for the number of war fatalities, both military and civilian, are difficult to verify and confirm. [Undercounting and manipulation](#) of the data is common in war. Russia recently [acknowledged](#) nearly 6,000 war dead, while Ukraine [claims](#) to have killed more than 55,000 Russian soldiers in the war to date. Gen. Valeriy Zaluzhny, commander-in-chief of the Ukrainian Armed forces, [said](#) on 22 August at a public forum that nearly 9,000 Ukrainian military personnel have been killed in the war. This was the first time Ukraine has revealed the scale of its military losses since the war began, previously protected as a tightly guarded secret - although in early June, a senior Ukrainian presidential aide [told](#) BBC News 100-200 Ukrainian soldiers were dying in the Donbas region every day. In April, Russia [said](#) it had killed about 23,000 Ukrainian troops. (For analysis on how Ukraine is working to recover, identify and remember its dead, read [here](#)).

According to [data collected](#) by the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), as at 26 September, 5,996 civilians have died since Russia invaded Ukraine in February, including 382 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 civilian casualties from explosive violence in the Ukrainian conflict reached 7,703 people by 30 September. From this number, 2,973 were killed and 4,730 were injured. Ninety-six per cent (7,371) of civilian casualties have occurred in populated areas.

### ***Continuing concerns about nuclear power stations***

Russian authorities [informed](#) the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) that the head of Ukraine’s Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant was “temporarily detained” for questioning on 1 October. Russia is trying to transfer the Zaporizhzhia plant to the Russian energy firm Rosatom, the head of Ukraine’s atomic energy company, Petro Kotin, [told](#) the BBC.

Meanwhile, the IAEA head, Rafael Grossi, met the foreign ministers of Russia and Ukraine at the UN General Assembly last week to discuss the possibility of [setting up](#) a protection zone around the plant, which is Europe's largest. The plant was shut down in September due to fighting in and around the plant over the past two months. This raised concerns about the potential for a [nuclear accident](#). A 14-member IAEA [expert mission](#) carried out an inspection of the Zaporizhzhia plant in early September. For further details see NATO Watch updates [23](#) through to [27](#).

## Further reading:

### On outcomes and consequences of the war

Kelley Beaucar Vlahos, [China and India remain neutral, even on Russia annexation](#), Responsible Statecraft, 1 October 2022

Anatol Lieven, [Putin annexations mean US-Russian talks more critical than ever](#), Responsible Statecraft, 30 September 2022

[Lawmakers split on Ukraine's new NATO bid](#), Politico, 30 September 2022

Connor Echols, [Diplomacy Watch: Putin's annexation plan will tank chances for near-term peace](#), Responsible Statecraft, 30 September 2022

[Ukraine applies for NATO membership, rules out Putin talks](#), Reuters, 30 September 2022

[Ukraine applies for Nato membership after Russia annexes territory](#), The Guardian, 30 September 2022

Susan Landau, [Cyberwar in Ukraine: What You See Is Not What's Really There](#), Lawfare, 30 September 2022

[Judy Asks: Can Putin Be Stopped?](#) Carnegie Europe, 29 September 2022

Sarah Ashbridge, Patrick Randolph-Quinney, Rob Janaway, Shari Forbes and Olga Ivshina, [Identifying Ukraine's War Dead](#), RUSI Commentary, 29 September 2022

John Feffer, [Is Putin in a corner?](#) Foreign Policy in Focus, 28 September 2022

Jon Wolfsthal, [The War in Ukraine is Going to Get Scarier](#), blog, 28 September 2022

Sam Cranny-Evans, [Understanding Russia's Mobilisation](#), RUSI Commentary, 28 September 2022

Aleksandr S. Kolbin, [War and peace: imagining a way from one to the other in Ukraine](#), Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists, 28 September 2022

Kelley Beaucar Vlahos, [There's no debating it: Biden will get billions in new Ukraine aid](#), Responsible Statecraft, 27 September 2022

[Poll: Americans support quick diplomatic end to war in Ukraine](#), Responsible Statecraft, 27 September 2022

Anatol Lieven, [Putin's regime may fall – but what would come next?](#) The Guardian, 27 September 2022

[NATO Secretary General at EU Parliament: stay the course on Ukraine](#), NATO News Release, 27 September 2022

Ashish Kumar Sem, [Crimea in Ukraine's Crosshairs, Say US Generals](#), CEPA Commentary, 27 September 2022

[Responding to Ukraine's Displacement Crisis: From Speed to Sustainability](#), International Crisis Group Briefing No.94, 26 September 2022

[Germany's Chancellor Has 'a Lot' for Ukraine. But No Battle Tanks](#), New York Times, 25 September 2022

Jack Watling, [Time is the Hidden Flank in Assessing Russia's Mobilisation](#), RUSI Commentary, 23 September 2022

Stephanie Carvin, [Is Ukraine the Cyberwar That Wasn't?](#) CIGI Commentary, 22 September 2022

Alexander Brotman, [Ukraine and the Shifting Geopolitics of the Heartland](#), Geopolitical Monitor, 21 September 2022

### On the risk of nuclear war

In recent weeks there have been growing concerns that the war might be approaching "a moment of [maximum danger](#)". In particular, there are worries that a cornered, desperate Vladimir Putin may resort to nuclear, chemical or biological weapons. On the 27 September, NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg [said](#), "Any use of nuclear weapons is absolutely

unacceptable, it will totally change the nature of the conflict, and Russia must know that a nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought". Poland's Foreign Minister Zbigniew Rau [said](#) NATO's response to any use of nuclear weapons in Ukraine should be non-nuclear but "devastating". Their comments came after Dmitry Medvedev, the deputy chairman of Russia's Security Council, again [threatened](#) the west with the use of nuclear weapons in Ukraine, saying: "Imagine that Russia is forced to use the most formidable weapon against the Ukrainian regime, which has committed a large-scale act of aggression, which is dangerous for the very existence of our state. I believe that NATO will not directly intervene in the conflict, even in this situation". And on 1 October the head of Russia's region of Chechnya Ramzan Kadyrov [said](#) Moscow should consider using a low-yield nuclear weapon in Ukraine after its battlefield defeat in Lyman.

Earlier, on 25 September, the US national security adviser Jake Sullivan [said](#) that the United States and its allies will act "decisively" if Russia uses a tactical nuclear weapon in Ukraine, reaffirming the Biden White House's previous response to these mounting concerns. He told CBS: "We have communicated directly, privately and at very high levels to the Kremlin that any use of nuclear weapons will be met with catastrophic consequences for Russia, that the US and our allies will respond decisively, and we have been clear and specific about what that will entail".

[NATO warns Russia of "severe consequences" in case of a nuclear strike](#), Reuters, 27 September 2022

[Russia's former president says nuclear threats are not a bluff and that NATO won't step in if Russia nukes Ukraine](#), Business Insider, 27 September 2022

Jon Wolfsthal, [Putin is weak, dangerous, and armed with nuclear weapons](#), blog, 21 September 2022

## **On investigations of war crimes in Ukraine**

The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights said in its latest periodic [report](#) on the human rights situation in Ukraine that Russia's invasion led to a wide range of human rights violations – including extrajudicial killings and torture – that could amount to war crimes. It was particularly concerned about torture and ill treatment of detainees by Russian forces and affiliated armed groups, but said that there had been rights violations by both sides. The ICC opened an investigation into possible war crimes in Ukraine just days after Moscow's forces invaded and it dispatched dozens of investigators to the country to gather evidence. On 14 July, 45 countries [agreed](#) at a conference in the Hague to coordinate investigations into suspected war crimes in Ukraine.

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

In response to Putin's annexation of Ukrainian territories, the US [announced](#) on 30 September fresh Russia-related sanctions on hundreds of individuals and companies. More than 1,000 people and firms connected to Russia's invasion of Ukraine are included in the new sanctions package, including its Central Bank governor and families of national security council members. Similarly, the European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen [proposed](#) an eighth package of sanctions on Russia on 28 September designed "to make the Kremlin pay" for escalating the conflict in Ukraine. An agreement on the next sanctions package is expected before next week's EU summit, and the proposals include a cap on the price of Russian oil and further curbs on hi-tech trade. However, Hungarian official Gergely Gulyas, Chief of Staff to the Prime Minister, Viktor Orbán, [said](#) his country "cannot and will not support" energy sanctions in the package. Earlier, Hungary's Prime Minister Viktor Orbán suggested that he will hold a "national consultation" on EU sanctions against Russia, [saying](#) "The sanctions were introduced in an undemocratic way, because it was the decision of the bureaucrats in Brussels, for which the European people are paying. We need to know



the opinion of the people. For the first time in Europe, in Hungary, we will ask for the opinion about sanctions”.

On the 26 September the UK [announced](#) 92 new sanctions in response to Russia’s “sham referendums” in Ukraine. The package of penalties target those behind the sham votes as well as oligarchs and board members. On the same day, Japan [announced](#) that it will ban exports of chemical weapons-related goods to Russia, and is “deeply concerned” about the possible use of nuclear weapons.

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. While the sanctions lists are sometimes difficult to interpret, the EU has [sanctioned](#) 1,158 individuals and 98 entities—an approximate doubling of its entire sanctions portfolio across the dozens of sanctions regimes it implements; the UK also roughly doubled its portfolio (excluding the UN listings it is obligated to implement) having [imposed](#) sanctions on over 1,000 individuals and over 100 businesses; and the US has [sanctioned](#) more than 1,000 individuals or organizations since the invasion. The numbers, and the pace of the rollout, dwarf the sanctions lists for the likes of Iran, North Korea, Libya, the thematic counterterrorism lists, and all others. 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.

Meanwhile, a report drawn up by an international working group on sanctions advising the Ukrainian government and published on 29 September [concluded](#) Russia should now be declared a “state sponsor of terrorism” and had reached the legal definition

of a terrorist state under US and Canadian law. The head of the Office of the Ukrainian Presidency, Andriy Yermak, called for sweeping US and European sanctions in light of the report, after Ukraine accused Russia of sabotage of the Nord Stream pipelines under the Baltic Sea (see below).

Finland closed its border to Russian tourists after Putin’s partial mobilisation order prompted large numbers of people to flee the country. From midnight on 29 September Finnish time (9pm GMT) it was [announced](#) that Russian tourists holding an EU Schengen visa would be turned away unless they have a family tie or a compelling reason to travel. Poland, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania all closed their borders to Russian tourists earlier this month. However, the German interior minister, Nancy Faeser, [said](#) the country was potentially prepared to give protection to deserters who face repercussions if they refused to fight, but each case would be decided on an individual basis amid security concerns.

### On energy security in Europe

The Nord Stream 1 and Nord Stream 2 pipelines, which are owned by Russian-controlled Gazprom and carry natural gas to Germany and European markets, were damaged by explosions in several locations in the exclusive economic zones of Denmark and Sweden on 26 September. [Sweden, Denmark](#), the EU and NATO said the leaks were caused by “sabotage”, but stopped short of accusing anyone of being behind the incident, which caused natural gas prices in Europe to spike. NATO [vowed](#) a “determined response” to what it described as “deliberate, reckless and irresponsible acts of sabotage”. A few days later, Sweden [reported](#) a fourth leak on one of the pipelines. The Kremlin [said](#) the incidents looked like an “act of terrorism”, and spokesperson Dmitry Peskov said a foreign state was probably responsible. Russia’s Foreign Ministry [claimed](#) the “incident on the Nord Stream occurred in a zone controlled by American intelligence”. On 1 October Denmark’s Energy Agency [said](#) the Nord Stream 2 pipeline was no longer leaking

because an equilibrium had been reached between the gas and water pressure.

Russia had [switched off](#) the pipelines earlier in September amid tensions with the West over its war in Ukraine. Politicians across Europe have warned that the suspected sabotaging of the two Nord Stream pipelines could herald a new stage of hybrid warfare targeting vulnerable energy infrastructure in order to undermine support for Ukraine. Norway's Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Støre [said](#) his country would step up its military presence at Norwegian installations after the country became Europe's largest supplier of natural gas.

These latest incidents not only added pressure on European gas prices but also cast Nord Stream's future into doubt as Europe strives to diversify its energy supply sources in order to curb its dependence on Russia. Gas shortages are occurring across Europe, raising the prospect of energy rationing as governments push to develop alternative supplies. The West accuses Russia of restricting energy supplies to boost prices in retaliation for sanctions imposed after Moscow's invasion of Ukraine. Russia denies it is to blame, and instead attributes responsibility to Western sanctions and various technical problems. President Putin has also [threatened](#) to cut off all deliveries of gas, oil, and coal to Europe if they imposed a price cap on Russian energy imports.

[NATO, EU Say Gas Pipeline Leaks are 'Sabotage' but stop Short of Pointing Finger at Russia](#), RFE/RL, 29 September 2022

[Statement by the North Atlantic Council on the damage to gas pipelines](#), NATO Press Release, 29 September 2022

[EU, NATO say Nord Stream gas pipelines were sabotaged](#), Al Jazeera, 28 September 2022

### On developments within Russia

More than half of Russians felt fearful or anxious after President Putin's mobilisation announcement on 21 September, [according](#) to a new poll. The poll by the independent Levada Centre showed 47% of respondents said they

had felt anxiety, fear or dread after hearing that hundreds of thousands of soldiers would be drafted to fight in Ukraine. Russians have continued to leave the country to escape the mobilisation, packing flights and lining up for hours at crossings into countries such as Georgia. Rather than let fleeing Russians apply for asylum many European countries (see above) barred the door to "Russian tourists".

The head of the Russian Orthodox Church Patriarch Kirill, a close ally of President Putin and a staunch supporter of the Ukraine invasion [said](#) Russian soldiers who die on the battlefield will have their sins absolved. He said the "sacrifice washes away all sins". Meanwhile, a Russian man [shot](#) the leader of the local military draft committee in a Siberian town on 26 September after telling him he would refuse to fight in Ukraine.

Finally, Russian businessman Yevgeny Prigozhin, a close ally of President Putin, [said](#) explicitly for the first time on 26 September that he had founded the Wagner mercenary group and confirmed its deployment to countries in Latin America and Africa.

[Putin ally Yevgeny Prigozhin admits founding Wagner mercenary group](#), The Guardian, 26 September 2022

[Report from Moscow: Antiwar Protests Grow as Thousands Flee Russia to Avoid Being Drafted into Army](#), Democracy Now, 23 September 2022

### On developments within NATO

On 26-27 September NATO air forces [conducted](#) drills over the Baltic Sea. Member states including the UK, Germany and Italy took part in the military training, both over water and on land.

D. Snetselaar, G. Frerks, L. Gould, S. Rietjens and T. Sweijs, [Knowledge security: insights for NATO](#), NATO Review, 30 September 2022

[NATO demonstrates HIMARS rocket system in Latvia in a display of force](#), EuroNews, 28 September 2022

[NATO in 'advantageous posture' as it updates plans to defend eastern flank, Cavoli says](#), Stars and Stripes, 27 September 2022

[Alliance agrees the Republic of Korea's Mission to NATO](#), NATO News Release, 27 September 2022

Katja-Elisabeth Herrmann, [The US-NATO and the reemerging regional waves](#), Warsaw Institute, 26 September 2022

[NATO starts 2-day air force drill in Baltic region](#), Anadolu Agency, 26 September 2022

[How important is NATO's positive Assessment for the Armed Forces of BiH?](#), Sarajevo Times, 25 September 2022

[Ex-NATO commander: 'Putin is becoming quite desperate'](#), The Hill, 25 September 2022

[NATO congratulated the Armed Forces of BiH on their historic Achievement](#), Sarajevo Times, 24 September 2022

[Summit prepares ground for 'NATOisation of Europe' and continues collision course with China and high levels of military spending](#), NATO Watch Briefing No.96, 6 July 2022

### On Finland and Sweden joining NATO

Finland and Sweden were invited to join NATO, after a [trilateral memorandum](#) with Turkey agreed on the eve of the NATO Madrid Summit assuaged Ankara's previous objections. The two Nordic countries will become NATO members after the Accession Protocol is ratified by all 30 member states. The invitation to Finland and Sweden represents a major geopolitical shift in Europe as the two countries move away from neutrality. However, ratification by Turkey is still by no means certain. To date, 28 NATO member states have ratified the decision, with Slovakia the most recent to do so. In the 150-seat Slovak parliament, 126 lawmakers supported Finland's entry, and 124 voted in favour of Sweden's accession.

Hungary and Turkey are the two member states where parliaments have not yet been asked to vote on Finland and Sweden's accession to NATO. The assumption is that they both will wait until 2023 to make a final decision, with Turkey potential waiting until after a general election in June 2023. Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on 1 October

renewed his threat to block Sweden and Finland's accession process, [saying](#) in a speech to parliament in Ankara "Until the promises made to our country are upheld, we will maintain our principled position".

[Turkey's Erdogan Renews Threat to Block NATO Bids by Sweden, Finland](#), RFE/RL, 1 October 2022

[Finland hopes for rapid admission to NATO, hails Türkiye's mediation in war](#), Hurriyet Daily News, 1 October 2022

[NATO found 'renewed purpose' amid Ukraine war, says former Finnish PM](#), Euractiv, 28 September 2022

[Slovak parliament approves NATO membership for Finland, Sweden](#), Reuters, 27 September 2022

For further details see:

[Murky trilateral agreement results in Turkey lifting objections to Finland and Sweden's NATO application](#), NATO Watch News Brief, 29 June 2022

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

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