



Transatlantic Dialogue Center

Weekly briefing

December 12 – 18

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12.12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The Council of the EU agreed to increase the fund, from which Ukraine is helped with weapons, by 2 billion euros. The press service notes that this decision sends a clear political signal about the EU's unchanging commitment to military support for Ukraine and other partners. ➤ The EU has imposed sanctions on the Iranian military and businessmen, as well as four companies linked to the production of drones that Iran supplies to Russia. At the same time, EU ministers could not agree on the 9th package of sanctions against the Russian Federation — Borrell hopes for a decision this week. ➤ Following the results of the meeting with the participation of Zelensky, the leaders of the G7 countries said that they would hold Putin accountable for the invasion of Ukraine. In a final statement, G7 leaders said Russia would have to pay Ukraine to restore critical infrastructure damaged or destroyed in its brutal war.
13.12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ President of the EC Ursula von der Leyen promised that the European Commission will supply about 30 million LED lamps for Ukraine, this will cover part of the deficit of the energy system. ➤ The country's MFA says that Spain gives Ukraine over 160 pieces of equipment to restore the power grid after Russian missile strikes. ➤ Britain has imposed sanctions against 12 Russian military commanders involved in attacks on critical infrastructure in Ukraine, as well as against Iranian businessmen involved in the production and supply of assault drones.
14.12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The European Commission has paid out the third and final tranche of 500 million euros as part of the emergency macro-financial assistance for Ukraine. ➤ The European Parliament presented the Sakharov Prize to the brave people of Ukraine. The handover ceremony was attended by representatives of the State Emergency Service of Ukraine, paramedic Yulia Paevska (Tyra), human rights defender Oleksandra Matviychuk ("Civil Liberties Center"), and Melitopol's Mayor Ivan Fedorov. ➤ The European Parliament approved providing Ukraine with 18 billion euros of macro-finance in 2023. The funds are intended to help maintain macroeconomic stability and restore infrastructure in Ukraine. ➤ The Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe adopted the Action Plan for Ukraine for 2023-2026 with a record amount of funding of 50 million euros. This is the largest Council of Europe Action Plan budget for a single country.
15.12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The Polish Sejm adopted a resolution recognizing Russia as a state sponsor of terrorism along with an amendment on the 2010 Smolensk air disaster. <i>"The Russian Federation must be isolated in the international arena,"</i> the Sejm emphasized. ➤ The Biden administration plans to send Ukraine advanced electronic equipment that turns unguided aerial munitions into "smart bombs" capable of hitting Russian military positions with a high degree of accuracy.

15.12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The European Parliament recognized the Holodomor of 1932-1933 as genocide of the Ukrainian people. ➤ Head of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania Landsbergis states that the Baltic countries and Poland are blocking the adoption of a new package of EU sanctions against the Russian Federation, as some countries have offered to soften them under the excuse of ensuring food exports. ➤ Zelenskyi called to supply Ukraine with modern weapons capable of speeding up the end of the war — <i>anti-aircraft defense, anti-missile defense, tanks and long-range weapons</i>, during his speech to the summit of EU leaders. ➤ EU leaders overcame all obstacles and agreed to pay Ukraine 18 billion euros in macro-financial assistance in 2023.
16.12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The EU Council approved the 9th package of sanctions aimed at increasing pressure on Russia in connection with its war against Ukraine. ➤ The US Senate approved the defense budget for the next year with a record \$858 billion, which includes \$800 million in military aid to Ukraine. ➤ According to the BBC, British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak ordered an audit to assess the impact of British military aid on the course of the war in Ukraine. The British government believes that such a cautious approach of the prime minister to support Ukraine may prevent an increase in military aid at a crucial moment on the battlefield. ➤ The Croatian Parliament rejected the proposal for the country to join the EU mission for the training of the Ukrainian military (EUMAM). President Milanovych, known for his sympathies for the Russian Federation, announced his refusal to approve participation in the EUMAM mission earlier. ➤ Greek Defense Minister Nikolaos Panagiotopoulos says that Athens can transfer Greek S-300 anti-aircraft missile systems to Ukraine if the US deploys its Patriot air defense systems instead. ➤ The Parliament of Bulgaria approved the agreement on the supply of weapons, equipment and ammunition to Ukraine. ➤ The US National Security spokesman Kirby says that the White House announced another package of military aid to Ukraine with air defense equipment.
18.12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The British Ministry of Defense informs that Britain sent high-precision Brimstone 2 missiles to Ukraine. The number of transferred missiles was not disclosed for security reasons. ➤ Estonia sends a mobile sauna and laundry for the Ukrainian military. In total, the complex has three machines where soldiers can wash and rest, wash their clothes and dry them. Vehicles can be transferred to different locations along the front line. ➤ Pope Francis calls the war in Ukraine global and does not believe that it will end in the near future.



Military positions



- ✓ In Donetsk oblast, the Russians continue to conduct offensive actions, shelling the positions of the Ukrainian military towards Bakhmut, Avdiivka, and Novopavlivka. Towards Lyman, the Russian Federation is trying to improve its tactical position, while towards Kupiansk and Zaporizhzhia the number of the military is increasing.
- ✓ In Zaporizhzhia and Kherson oblasts, the Russians continue to apply artillery to destroying the civilian infrastructure of the settlements along the right bank of the Dnipro River.
- ✓ Towards Volyn and Siversk, the situation did not undergo significant changes, and there are no signs of Russian offensive groups being formed.
- ✓ There is still a threat of enemy missile strikes launched on critical infrastructure facilities throughout Ukraine.

13.12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ On December 12, It was confirmed that Ukrainians had inflicted damage to the buildups of Russians near Verbove, Zaporizhzhia oblast. There were destroyed up to 10 units of weapons and military equipment of various types, and losses among Russian servicemen are being specified. ➤ On December 13, towards Tokmak, Polohy and Berdiansk settlements of Zaporizhzhia oblast, the Defense Forces of Ukraine destroyed 2 enemy ammunition depots, 2 artillery systems with ammunition, and 6 units of military equipment of various types. More than 200 Russian servicemen were injured. In connection with the overflow of medical facilities and morgues in the city of Melitopol, the Russians are transporting corpses and evacuating wounded servicemen to the temporarily occupied Crimea. In order to replenish the current losses, Russians are forced to supplement the operational-tactical command level with retired officers, which were transferred to the reserve, and even retired officers. Now, they are sent to the areas of combat actions.
14.12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The Russian Federation struck critical infrastructure facilities in Kyiv oblast with Iranian Shahed-136/131 UAVs. The Ukrainian Air Force shot down all 13 enemy UAVs. ➤ Ukraine returned another 65 people from Russian captivity. The vast majority of the freed soldiers were captured by Russians in the most difficult areas of the front: near Bakhmut, Soledar, Zaitseve, and in other places of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts. 59 released prisoners are representatives of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, and five more are fighters of the Territorial Defense Forces of Ukraine. Also, it was possible to free a civilian - a US citizen, 35-year-old Suedi Murekezi. The Russians captured him in June in Kherson, allegedly "for participating in pro-Ukrainian rallies." In addition, the bodies of four fallen soldiers of Ukraine were returned to their homeland.
15.12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ According to the Institute for the Study of War (ISW), there is a possibility that Russia is preparing for another full-scale attack on Ukraine in January-February 2023 either along the Kharkiv-Luhansk border or in Donetsk oblast. The Russians are already transferring equipment from the rear areas of the Luhansk oblast to the borderline areas. ➤ Valerii Zaluzhnyi stated that the Russians are training about 200,000 new soldiers and may try to go to Kyiv again. He said: <i>"Russian mobilization was effective. It is not true that these people will not fight. They will fight. The 'tsar' tells them to go to war, and they go to fight. They may not be as well-equipped, but they are still a problem for us. According to our estimates, they (Russians) have a reserve of 1.2-1.5 million people. The Russians are training about 200,000 new soldiers. I have no doubts that they will make another attempt to seize Kyiv."</i> ➤ In addition, in an interview with The Economist, Zaluzhnyi noted that Ukraine will be able to retake the territories captured by Russia after February 24 if it has 300 tanks, 700 BMPs, and 500 Howitzers. The Armed Forces cannot conduct new large-scale operations with the currently available technical resources, although they are presently working out one of them. ➤ At the same time, there is a suspicion that Belarus is preparing for a full-scale war with Ukraine. Territorial defense of Belarus is being created in the regions bordering Ukraine, and there is also a ban on visiting these settlements. According to Oleksii Hromov, Deputy Chief of the General Staff of Ukraine, this may be a sign that preparations for an attack on Ukraine are underway in Belarus.
16.12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Units of the Defense Forces of Ukraine repelled the attacks of the Russians in the areas of more than 20 settlements of Donetsk oblast. The Ukrainian Rocket Forces and Artillery hit 5 personnel build-ups, one command post, and a Russian ammunition depot. ➤ On the same day, the Russians launched a barrage of missile attacks on the civilian and energy infrastructure of Ukraine. In total, Russia launched 98 rockets and fired more than 65 rockets from multiple rocket systems. This is already the 9th attack on the energy infrastructure of Ukraine since the beginning of the full-scale invasion. The Russians hit Ukraine with three waves of missiles. The first wave of missiles is trying to detect gaps in the Ukrainian Air Defense, the second is hitting it, while the third is hitting critical infrastructure objects. According to the military expert Mykhailo Zhyrokhov, now Russians are concentrating precisely on making a blackout in one specific region, firstly, Kyiv and Kyiv oblast, as well as Kharkiv and Poltava oblasts. ➤ Colonel-General Oleksandr Syrskyi, commander of the Ground Forces of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, told why the enemy should not be underestimated and the pace of arms supply to Ukraine should be maintained: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The Russians change tactics, attacking with a smaller number, but coordinated units. ➤ The attacks cause huge personnel losses, but "the lives of soldiers have never been the highest priority for Russia." ➤ Mobilized Russian soldiers "from Russia's hinterlands" are arriving in large numbers in the east of Ukraine. ➤ Russia withdraws part of its troops from Kakhovka and Nova Kakhovka of Kherson oblast to Nyzhni Sirohozy. Among the residents of the right bank of Kherson oblast, military personnel is spreading information that Kakhovka will be abandoned by Russian troops by the end of this year. Therefore, locals loyal to the occupiers are offered to move to the temporarily occupied Ukrainian Crimea.

Losses of the Russian army from 12.12.2022 to 18.12.2022

Liquidated personnel	4140
Tanks	45
IFVs	43
Artillery systems / MLRS	20/13
UAVs	36
Vehicles & fuel tanks	39
Special equipment	7

✓ During the week, Russians carried out **137 missile** and **62 air strikes** and conducted over **440 attacks from MLRS**.

Attack on December 16

On December 16, Russia massively attacked Ukraine's energy infrastructure. The shelling damaged energy facilities in the east and south of the country. Emergency blackouts were introduced throughout the country. Nine generation facilities and substations that transmit electricity were damaged. This led to a reduction in production at nuclear generation facilities.

Russia fired **74 missiles at Ukraine, including 70 cruise missiles** (X-101, "Kalibr", X-22) and **4 guided missiles** (X-59/X-31P). The peculiarity of this attack was cruise missiles X-101/X-555 launched not only from the Caspian Sea but also from Saratov oblast, near Engels, where strategic bombers-missile carriers Tu-95MS are based. In addition, during the attack, the Russians struck at the frontline cities with anti-aircraft missiles from S-300 - about 27 launchers. The Ukrainian air defense system has shot down 60 missiles.

- More than **40 missiles** were recorded to be spotted near **Kyiv**, and 37 of them were destroyed by air defense forces. The explosions occurred in three Kyiv districts: Holosiivskiyi, Desnianskyi and Dniprovskiyi. One person was injured in the Dniprovskiyi district. A critical infrastructure facility and nine private houses in different districts of the oblast were damaged. Three people were injured, and one person is in serious condition. In some communities, there are interruptions in communication, water and heat supply. Four people were injured as a result of the attack in Kyiv oblast.
- Occupiers hit **Kharkiv oblast** with **10 missiles**, 2 of which were shot down by air defense forces. There were no casualties.
- In **Kryvyi Rih**, missiles hit the entrance of a **residential building**. Four people have been killed: a 64-year-old woman, a young couple, and their 1.5-year-old son. 13 were wounded, including four children, and all of them are in hospital.
- Russians launched **12 missile strikes** in the **Zaporizhzhia oblast**.
- Russians fired 2 missiles at **Zhytomyr oblast**, and one of them was shot down. There were no casualties. There was a missile hit on the Korosten community in Zhytomyr oblast.
- **10 missiles** were shot down over the **Dnipropetrovsk oblast**.
- Air defense was also on alert in Poltava, Mykolaiv, and Vinnytsia oblasts. **Poltava and Kirovohrad oblasts are completely de-energized**; the heating system did not function in Kremenchuk due to the lack of electricity.

In total, Russia has launched **nine massive attacks** on Ukrainian energy infrastructure. After the eighth, all thermal and hydroelectric power plants in the country were damaged. After the ninth attack, Ukrenerho claimed an **emergency situation in the energy system**.

Other regions

- In the **Mykolaiv region**, Russians continue shelling Kutsurub, Chornomorsk and Ochakiv communities. An outbuilding was destroyed, and a social infrastructure facility and residential buildings were damaged. 1 person was wounded.
- On December 14, **Kyiv** suffered two waves of attacks by enemy drones. Due to the effective work of air defense and electronic warfare units, 13 enemy drones were destroyed. Debris from the downed UAVs hit one administrative building and 4 more residential buildings were slightly damaged (the Shevchenkivskiyi district of the capital). A private house was damaged in the town of Vyshneve. People were not injured.
- In the **Zaporizhzhia region** during the week the occupiers fired at the positions of the Ukrainian military in Huliaipole and Vasytkiv regions. In addition, civilian houses in the villages of Plavni, Huliaipole, Dorozhnianky, Orikhiv and Olhivske, Polohy and Vasytkiv regions, a village in the Komyshevakh territorial community were subjected to enemy attacks.
- In the **Sumy region** Russian invaders shelled the Seredyno-Buda community with mortars. Three enemy mines of 120 mm caliber exploded on the border. An apartment building and a power line were damaged.

Kherson and Kherson oblast

During the week, Russians shelled the territory of Kherson oblast **more than 200 times**.

They hit one of the high-rise buildings in Kherson - a woman was killed, and 4 more people were wounded. The fire engulfed several apartments. The Kherson KhBK district, schools, a stadium, medical institutions, power lines, an infrastructure facility, a shipyard, warehouses, a newspaper office, a shop, the Kherson Regional State Administration building, private and apartment buildings were shelled. **9 dead, including an 8-year-old boy, and 34 were wounded**. The occupiers hit the place where the medical assistance and humanitarian aid distribution point is located. Two people were killed: a 32-year-old paramedic and a 70-year-old man. There was also a repeated shelling of the **downtown of Kherson**. The hit was recorded 100 meters from the building of the Kherson Regional Military Administration, 2 people were killed

Kharkiv and Kharkiv oblast

On December 12, the enemy shelled **12 settlements** of the Kharkiv oblast located near the conflict line. Two country houses were burning in Hlyboke village, Kharkiv region. There were no casualties. During the week, the Kharkiv, Chuhuiv, Izium and Kupiansk regions of the oblast were shelled. In **Kupiansk**, an S-300 missile destroyed a two-story administrative building. The Russians also shelled an ambulance - a 54-year-old paramedic was wounded. A **critical infrastructure** facility was damaged as a result of shelling from the S-300. In the village of Kivsharivka, Kupiansk region, a 63-year-old woman was wounded as a result of shelling. On December 15, Russian invaders hit the Kholodnohirskiyi district of Kharkiv. Previously, the occupiers struck with S-300 systems.

Dnipro and Dnipropetrovsk oblast

Russians continue to terrorize the Dnipropetrovsk oblast. Nikopol, Chervonohryhorivsk and Marhanets communities suffer the most **from shelling with Hrad systems, Urahan systems and heavy artillery**. More than 10 private houses and outbuildings, as well as power grids, were damaged in the Chervonohryhorivka community. In **Marhanets**, a dozen private houses and outbuildings, cars, gas pipelines and power grids were damaged. In **Nikopol**, multi-storey and private houses, outbuildings, administrative buildings, a shop, and power lines were mutilated. There was one killed civilian, and three wounded. Russian invaders also fired from the area around the **ZNPP**.

Donetsk region

Russians are shelling the entire frontline. **Towards Volnovakha**, Vuhledar, Novoukrainka and Bohoyavlenka of the Vuhledar community are under fire. **Towards Donetsk**, Kurakhove, Veselyi Hai and Trudove of the Kurakhove community, Marinka, Hirnyk, Heorhiivka and Krasnohorivka, Soloviove of the Ocheretyn community and Avdiivka were shelled. Houses and power grids were damaged. **Towards Lysychansk**, Lyman, Torske and Zarichne are under constant shelling **Towards Horlivka**, Russians are most actively shooting at Bakhmut: residential buildings. The Youth Center was damaged, and the college building was completely burnt down. There was also shelling of the Kostiantynivka, Toretsk and Chasiv Yar communities, Vasiukivka, Paraskoviivka, Yakovliivka, Bakhmutske and Rozdolivka of the Soledar community, Bila Hora of the Kostiantynivka community. There are injured and dead.

This week shelling

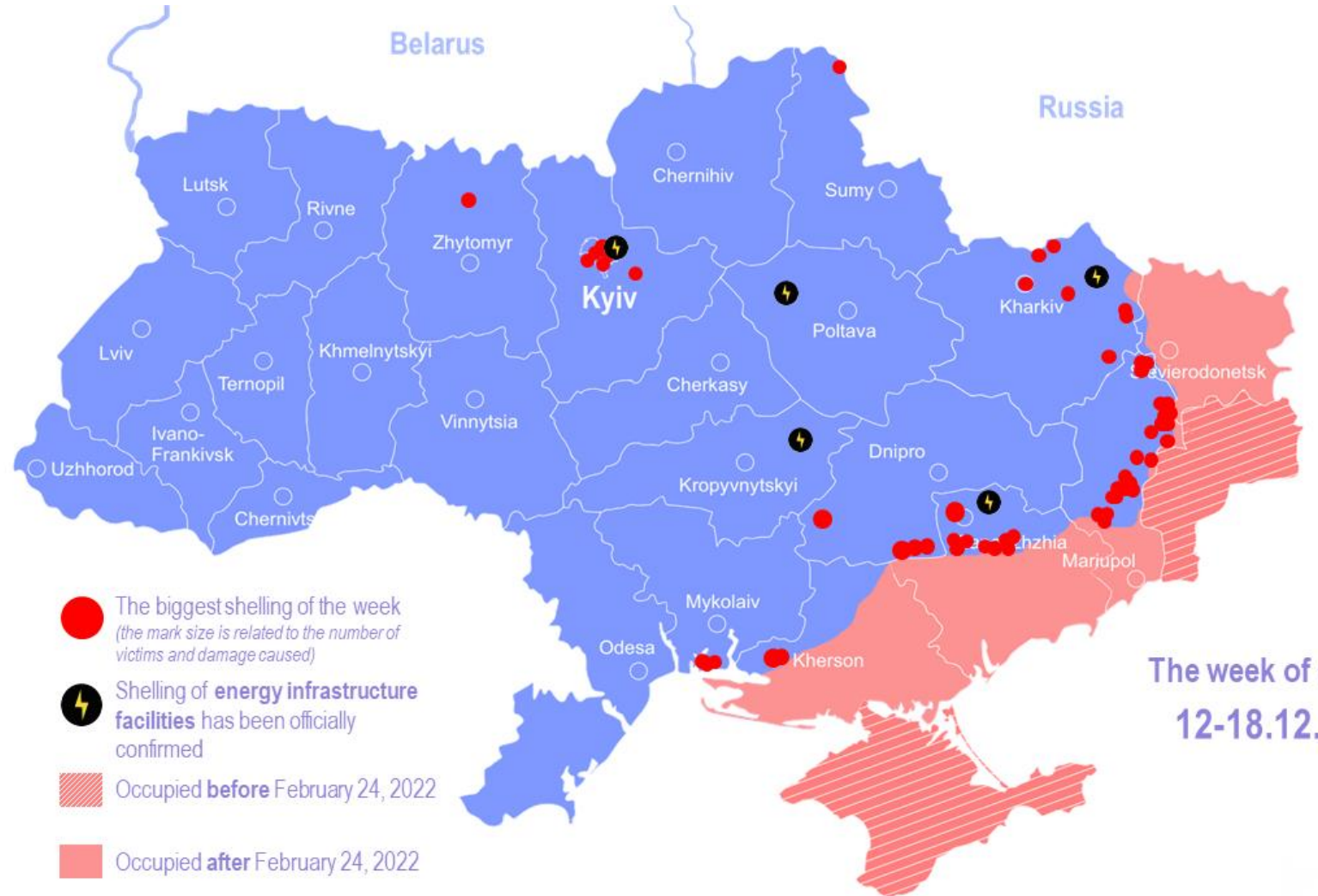
Kryvyi Rih



Kherson



Nikopol, Dnipropetrovsk region



Humanitarian crisis

12.12

- Due to ongoing hostilities in Bakhmut, Donetsk oblast, there has been no communication for a long time. Make-shift "stoves" on the open fire became a place for cooking and heating here.
- Ukraine needs \$1 billion to restore its critical infrastructure quickly and survive the winter.
- Two ports of Greater Odesa have resumed operations after being de-energized because of the Russian attack on critical infrastructure facilities. "The Russian attack on energy infrastructure facilities has caused a complete outage of the critical infrastructure facilities. The Port of Odesa and Port Yuzhnyi were not able to perform cargo operations while the Port of Chornomorsk could do them only partially," said Oleksii Vostrikov, Head of the Ukrainian Sea Ports Authority. On Sunday, December 11, the power supply was gradually restored, and alternative power sources also used in the ports.
- As of the morning of December 12, there is still a power shortage in the power system, and bad weather complicates repair work. The situation is still difficult in Odesa oblast, and power restoration continues. Russian invaders have damaged all Ukrainian thermal power plants during massive attacks on the Ukrainian energy system.

13.12

- If Russia continues its massive missile attacks on Ukrainian infrastructure, the Ukrainian economy may shrink by up to 50%. Prime Minister Denys Shmyhal suggested this at the Forum on Economic Resilience and Reconstruction of Ukraine held in Paris.

14.12

- On December 14, restrictions in power supply slightly decreased, and almost all areas with probable power outages were supplied with power.
- About 8 million Ukrainians went abroad because of Russia's attack on Ukraine, the number makes up 20% of the country's population.
- At the Russian-seized Zaporizhzhia NPP, the invaders are connecting mobile diesel-powered boilers to prevent the freezing of critical systems of the plant.

15.12

- Brutal Russian attacks continue in Donbas oblast, and the invaders are actually destroying towns and villages so that the Ukrainian troops have no buildings that can be used for defense.
- In January-October of the current year, the negative balance of Ukraine's foreign trade in goods increased 2.6 times compared to the same period in 2021 – from \$2.69 bln to \$7.05 bln.
- In Zaporizhzhia oblast, the invaders destroyed 5,421 objects. There are about 2,000 private houses, about 300 high-rise buildings, 180 educational institutions, and more among them.
- The Parliament of Ukraine supported the import of Starlink, generators, and equipment for energy restoration in Ukraine without duty and VAT.
- Russia caused \$136 billion damage to Ukraine's infrastructure. Energy infrastructure, industry, public and private enterprises incurred the largest number of losses. Compared to the report, since September, losses of industrial enterprises have increased by \$3 billion and constitute \$13 billion, while losses of energy infrastructure have increased to \$6.8 billion.

15.12

- The owner of the Avangard agricultural holding Oleh Bakhmatiuk, who also owns the Chornobaivka Poultry Factory (Kherson oblast), the largest poultry farm in Ukraine and Europe, said that the farm had been looted and destroyed due to the actions of the invaders. The death of 4.4 million birds allows the law enforcement agencies to qualify the situation as an ecocide committed by the invaders. The owner estimates the loss at \$330 million.
- According to the International Organization for Migration, only 7% of Ukrainian citizens are actively preparing to move to another place for the winter period as a result of problems with the energy supply caused by Russian missile strikes. The Chief of Mission for IOM Ukraine, Anh Nguyen, stressed that 40% of the population of Ukraine needs urgent humanitarian assistance. According to the organization's data, 43% of households in Ukraine have exhausted their savings, and 63% of respondents have said they limit their consumption of gas, electricity, and solid fuel.

16.12

- Power outages did not affect only 1% of businesses in Ukraine. It is proved by the results of a survey conducted by the European Business Association. The instability of electricity supply over the past two months has forced 66% of companies to adjust their work schedules, 40% had to reduce production or service provision, and 12% had to close some offices, retail outlets, or branches.
- In addition, to minimize the impact of blackouts:
 - 86% of businesses install generators or other uninterruptible power supplies;
 - 65% use alternative communication and Internet sources;
 - 25% transfer data to the cloud;
 - 22% conduct cybersecurity activities; and
 - 10% are forced to relocate their business or staff.
- Kyiv Underground stations worked as a shelter because of the morning attacks. Due to the damage to the power system and emergency power outages, the underground trains did not run until the end of the Friday afternoon. This caused a traffic collapse on the roads of the city.
- Ukrenerho declared an emergency, which means that, due to the damage to substations and power generating facilities, it is not technically possible to provide power to more than 50% of consumers (including critical infrastructure).
- Minister of Energy Herman Galushchenko said that the Russian attack caused damage to about 9 power generation facilities. Power plants and substations that transmit electricity were damaged, which led to restrictions on production at nuclear generation facilities.
- Deputy Chairman of the Security Council of the Russian Federation Dmitry Medvedev called acceptable, in his opinion, "legitimate military goals" in the war with Ukraine and said that this list includes civilian infrastructure (bridges, transport stations, roads, energy facilities, and plants).

