



# Transatlantic Dialogue Center

## Weekly briefing

**March 16 – 22**

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International situation & Military Support	2
Situation at the Front	4
This week shelling and strikes	6
Humanitarian situation	9

## The U.S. negotiations with Ukraine and Russia

- According to Donald Trump, the conversation with Vladimir Putin was “very good and productive.” They allegedly agreed to an immediate ceasefire on all energy and infrastructure facilities for 30 days. But as Bloomberg writes, one of Putin’s key points was a demand to **stop mobilization efforts and supply weapons to Ukraine**. Russia also insists on **ending all foreign aid to Ukraine**, which is strongly opposed by Europe, which fears Russia’s rearmament during the truce.
- The White House also reported that Trump and Putin agreed to improve bilateral relations between the US and Russia.
- After speaking with Putin, Trump held phone talks with Volodymyr Zelenskyi. The latter supported the **cessation of strikes on energy infrastructure** and emphasized the importance of further negotiations. The Ukrainian president reported on the situation at the front and asked for additional Patriot air defense systems, and Trump promised to “look for options” for supply, including through European partners.
- The next round of talks between the US and Russia is scheduled for March 23 in Jeddah. Preliminary agreements are to be discussed there, including the issue of a naval truce in the Black Sea.
- Ukraine is also preparing for **talks with U.S. representatives** in Saudi Arabia, which will take place between March 21 and 23. Zelenskyi emphasized that they will discuss a list of **infrastructure facilities** that need to be protected, including railroads and ports. The possibility of resuming the operation of the **Zaporizhzhia NPP** is also among the issues to be discussed.
- The President of Ukraine emphasized that the **ceasefire could be implemented quickly** if the United States provides sufficient support. He emphasized that freezing the conflict is unacceptable and that a full end to the war requires not only military but also political solutions.
- Trump said he had officially appointed Keith Kellogg as **special envoy to Ukraine**. Previously, Kellogg was the US Special Representative for Ukraine and Russia. Previously, the media reported that Kellogg had been removed from the talks between Ukraine and Russia because the latter considered him too pro-Ukrainian.

## International support

- President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelenskyi held a briefing following an online **meeting of the “coalition of the willing”** - countries that are willing to support a ceasefire in Ukraine. They discussed the formation of a European negotiation team for a peaceful settlement and the need to **create a security guarantee plan**, including the potential presence of allied contingents. In addition, the United States and Europe are discussing the possibility of reconstructing Ukraine.
- During the European Council summit, all EU leaders, except Hungarian Prime Minister Orban, supported a joint statement of support for Ukraine and the **“peace through strength” approach** (security guarantees). Separately, later, U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio convinced Hungary to support the **extension of sanctions against Russia**, although Budapest initially planned to veto them.

- Ukraine will receive another tranche of **€3.5 billion under the Ukraine Facility program**, which will support macro-financial stability and government functions. In addition, the EU countries and the UK are stepping up negotiations on the **confiscation of frozen Russian assets** to increase pressure on Russia ahead of potential peace talks, Bloomberg reports.
- The EU published a **“White Paper on European Defense,”** which recognizes Russia as the main threat and also provides for strategic development to strengthen the defense capabilities of both the EU and Ukraine.
- The EU is preparing a new **€40 billion military aid package** for Ukraine, supported by most European countries.
- Volodymyr Zelenskyi visited **Finland** to discuss defense support, investment in Ukrainian arms production, Ukraine’s European integration, and sanctions against Russia. Together with Finnish President Alexander Stubb, they launched the **Civil Defense Shelter Coalition**.
- Turkey has significantly reduced its **purchases of Russian oil** - its share in imports fell from 50% to 19% in March amid US sanctions. Russia’s Gazprom ended 2024 with a loss of 1.07 trillion rubles (\$12.89 billion), Reuters reports.
- German customs confiscated the Eventin tanker of the Russian shadow fleet along with its cargo - about 100,000 tons of crude oil worth almost €40 million. In late February, the tanker was added to the EU sanctions list.

## Peacekeepers

- British Prime Minister Keir Starmer announced a plan to send more than 10,000 peacekeepers to Ukraine, with the UK and France leading the way. About 35 countries have agreed to support the mission, including by providing weapons, logistical and intelligence support. There is also talk of the possible participation of British special forces, as confirmed by The i Paper.
- The UK is also ready to provide **air protection for the peacekeeping contingent**. It is considering sending Eurofighter Typhoon or F-35 fighters for this task.
- France is considering sending **peacekeepers under the auspices of the UN**, but this initiative requires the approval of the UN Security Council, which could be blocked by Russia or the United States, according to The Telegraph. Ukraine, for its part, noted that UN peacekeepers cannot be an alternative to European military forces or security guarantees.

## Other

- Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban has put forward a list of demands to the European Union. One of them is “the Union but without Ukraine.”
- Washington will restrict entry to the United States for citizens of 43 countries, including Russia and Belarus, the NYT reports. There are three lists of countries: red, orange, and yellow. Russia and Belarus are on the “orange” list, which means that travel for their citizens will be restricted but not blocked.



- The United States **will leave** the International Center for the Investigation of Crimes of Aggression against Ukraine, the NYT reports. They have already secretly informed European countries that are part of this investigation team. The newspaper notes that this decision is evidence that the Trump administration is backing away from its commitment to hold Putin personally accountable for the crimes. In addition, the Trump administration is also **scaling back the work of the War Crimes Analysis Group**, which was established in 2022. This group was supposed to coordinate the Justice Department's efforts to bring Russians to justice.
- Ukraine may be **left without HIV medicines** due to cuts in USAID funding, Reuters reports, citing the WHO.
- Russia has become the largest supplier of oil to India, overtaking the United Arab Emirates, Reuters reports. From April 2024 to March 2025, Russia supplied more than half of the oil to India, up from 14%-16% of the total in the previous year.
- The European Union has stopped discussing the seizure of frozen Russian assets, reported DW. "According to EU law, Russian assets should remain frozen until Russia ends its aggressive war against Ukraine and compensates it for the damage caused by this war." Several EU countries opposed the confiscation, arguing that it would set a dangerous precedent for the competitiveness of the European financial market.
- Russia has supplied oil to the new Syrian government for the first time. According to Reuters, nearly 100,000 tons of oil were delivered by the Aquatica tanker, which is part of the Russian shadow fleet. The second tanker of the shadow fleet, Sakina, is still on its way to Syria with 100 thousand tons of oil and is due to arrive on March 25.
- The US is reducing its involvement in monitoring compliance with sanctions against Russia, Bloomberg reports. In particular, the United States has been almost inactive in the working group that is responsible for preventing Russia's access to parts and equipment for weapons production. Washington has also reduced its activity in the group that monitors and enforces the G7 price cap on Russian oil.



## Military Support

- Germany has announced a new military aid package for Ukraine. It includes: Mine Resistant Ambush Protected Vehicles (MRAP); ammunition for Leopard 1 tanks; Gepard self-propelled anti-aircraft guns; 10,000 rounds of ammunition for Gepard self-propelled anti-aircraft guns; shells for IRIS-T SLM air defense systems; ammunition; 50 Vector reconnaissance drones; 30 Gereon RCS multipurpose tracked modular platforms; 30 drone detection systems; demining equipment; assault rifles.
- Ukraine has introduced a training course for sappers at EOD levels 1-3, which meets international demining standards IMAS. The training will be conducted by veterans from NATO member states. The project was funded by the OSCE.
- The Ministry of Strategic Industries of Ukraine and Czech companies COLT CZ and Česká Zbrojovka discussed the licensed production of the Bren-2 and the development of a new assault rifle.
- The United States is stepping up its support by selecting four companies to participate in the Artemis long-range kamikaze drone program, two of which are working with Ukrainian companies, The Defense Post reports.
- A new batch of F-16 fighter jets is already in Ukraine, Volodymyr Zelenskyi said. He did not specify from which countries Ukraine received the planes or their number.
- Norwegian company NAMMO, one of the leading manufacturers of artillery ammunition, and a Ukrainian defense company have signed a strategic cooperation agreement. The document deepens the existing cooperation by covering a wider range of ammunition, components and materials.
- The French company ELWAVE will supply Ukraine with its Tetrapulse electromagnetic sensors for detecting mines and unexploded ordnance at the bottom of water bodies.
- Germany approves an additional €3 billion in military aid for Ukraine for this year. The package is in addition to the €4 billion in military aid to Ukraine already planned in the 2025 budget. In addition, the Bundestag's budget committee also approved the allocation of €8.3 billion in the period from 2026 to 2029. These funds will be used to purchase Iris-T air defense systems, guided missiles, radars, drones, combat vehicles, and light weapons for Ukraine.
- The European Union is considering allocating up to €9 billion in a loan secured by frozen Russian assets for military assistance to Ukraine in 2025. This is reported in the material of the European Pravda.
- As part of the SAFE security initiative announced by the EU, the Ukrainian defense industry will be able to be involved on an equal footing with the defense industries of EU member states. This was stated by European Commissioner for Economic Affairs Valdis Dombrovskis during a briefing in Kyiv.

## Key Events of the Week:

- Russian forces are conducting active assault operations at the Kharkiv, Kupiansk, Lyman, Siversk, Kramatorsk, Toretsk, Pokrovsk, Novopavlivka, and Huliaipole directions, trying to break through the Ukrainian defense. At the same time, no combat actions were recorded in the Orikhiv sector.
- During the week, the total number of combat clashes on the frontline fluctuates between 112 and 166 per day.
- The Ministry of Defense of Ukraine denied rumors about the encirclement of Ukrainian units in the Kursk oblast
- The DIU's troops inflicted significant blows on enemy positions in Crimea.
- The Ministry of Defense of Ukraine presented a domestically produced robotic complex, "Liut" ("Fury").
- The Ukrainian command decided to withdraw troops to more favorable positions in Donetsk oblast.
- Ukrainian forces attacked the Engels-2 air base in the Saratov oblast of the Russian Federation.
- The Air Force strikes a command post in Belgorod oblast and a command post of the Russian border guard in Glotovo.
- In the Krasnodar Territory of the Russian Federation, an oil depot caught fire after a Ukrainian drone attack.
- Russia unreasonably accuses Ukraine of shelling the Sudzha gas station in Kursk oblast, although the facility has been repeatedly shelled by the Russians themselves.

17.03	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ A total of 112 combat clashes took place in the frontline</li> <li>➤ None of the Ukrainian units are surrounded in the Kursk oblast, - Ukraine's Defense Minister claims. Recently, US President Donald Trump wrote on his Truth Social social network that "thousands of Ukrainian troops are completely surrounded by Russian troops in Kursk oblast." In an interview with Fox News, Defense Minister Rustem Umerov stated that the Defense Forces continue to conduct defensive operations and control a large area of enemy territory.</li> </ul>
18.03	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ A total of 155 combat clashes were recorded over the past day.</li> <li>➤ Ukraine's Main Directorate of Intelligence military (DIU) destroyed Russian air defense systems, naval vessels, and an enemy helicopter in Crimea. It is specified that a number of Russian radar stations were damaged. In addition, the S-300SV launcher, command posts of the ST-68 radar and the 39N6 Kasta 2E2 radar, as well as 3 Pantsir-S1 anti-aircraft missile and gun systems, a transport and towing vessel of the S4236 project, a universal tug Fyodor Uryupin and a Mi-8 helicopter were hit.</li> <li>➤ The Air Force of the Armed Forces of Ukraine attacked the command post of one of the units of the 3rd Motorized Rifle Division of the 20th Army of the Russian Armed Forces near Demidovka, Belgorod oblast (Russia).</li> <li>➤ The General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine assures that the situation on the border of Sumy oblast with Kursk oblast of the Russian Federation is under the control of the Ukrainian Defense Forces.</li> <li>➤ In Donetsk oblast, the Ukrainian command decided to withdraw Ukrainian troops to more favorable positions in one of the frontline areas. "The most important thing for the command is to save the lives and health of the personnel. This made it possible not only to save the soldiers but also to improve our defense," Lieutenant General Serhii Naiev wrote.</li> </ul>
19.03	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ A total of 140 combat clashes were recorded over the past day.</li> <li>➤ An oil depot caught fire in the Krasnodar Krai of the Russian Federation after a drone attack. In the village of Kavkazskaya, a pipeline between the tanks was damaged. Its operation has been suspended.</li> <li>➤ Without intelligence from the United States, Ukraine may lose data on the accuracy of Russian ballistic missiles," Volodymyr Zelenskyi stated. "It is very dangerous for Ukraine if America is not to be Ukraine's strategic partner. We have had steps or signals of this danger - a temporary suspension of aid. I am grateful to the President and the team, everything has been restored," he added.</li> </ul>
20.03	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Ukrainian drones attacked the Russian air base Engels-2, where strategic bombers are based. Engels in the Saratov region has been repeatedly targeted by Ukrainian drones.</li> <li>➤ The Defense Intelligence of Ukraine writes that a car with 2 Russian officers exploded in Skadovsk.</li> </ul>
21.03	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ A total of 166 combat clashes were recorded over the past day.</li> <li>➤ Russia has accused the Ukrainian Armed Forces of shelling the Sudzha gas metering station in Kursk oblast – the General Staff. The staff called these accusations groundless. Instead, this station has been repeatedly shelled by the Russians themselves: "Last summer it was bombed by guided aerial bombs, and 3 days ago the Russians hit it again with anti-aircraft missiles. Today, the enemy has strengthened its planned destructive information influence with another provocation - it shelled this facility with artillery." Earlier, the Russian Armed Forces used a gas main pipe to covertly move their units.</li> <li>➤ Since the beginning of the full-scale invasion, Ukraine has returned 4306 people from Russian captivity," President Zelenskyi said.</li> </ul>

Losses of the Russian army from 16.03.2025 to 22.03.2025	
Liquidated personnel	8 030
Tanks	68
IFVs	147
Artillery systems / MLRS	450/15
Anti-aircraft warfare systems	12
Aircraft / helicopters	0/0
UAVs	1028
Ships/boats	0
Vehicles & fuel tanks	825
Special equipment	6

# Situation at the Front

22.03

- A total of 142 combat clashes were recorded in the frontline over the past day.
- The Air Force struck a control center of a Russian border outpost in the Belgorod oblast of the Russian Federation. The strike destroyed communications and other technical equipment in the village of Glotovo. The destruction of this control center significantly weakens the enemy's ability to conduct hostilities against the units of the Ukrainian Defense Forces in Sumy and Kharkiv oblasts.
- Trump's Special Representative Witkoff stated that "the biggest issue in this war is the so-called four regions: Donbas, Crimea, Luhansk, and two more. These territories are Russian-speaking, and referendums were held there, where the majority of people voted for being under Russian rule."

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# This week shelling and strikes

## Massive attacks per week

- **Attack on the night of March 16:** Air defense shot down 47 enemy UAVs out of 90. Another 33 drones were lost locationally. As a result of the attack, Chernihiv, Kyiv, Kharkiv, and Odesa oblasts were affected.
- **Attack on the night of March 17:** Air defense shot down 90 enemy UAVs out of 174. Another 70 drones were lost locationally without negative consequences. The attack affected the Odesa, Kharkiv, Dnipropetrovsk, Kirovohrad, Sumy, Chernihiv, and Kyiv oblasts.
- **Attack on the night of March 18:** Air defense shot down 63 drones out of 137. Another 64 drones were lost locationally. Targets were intercepted in 12 regions. Due to the Russian attack, the Kharkiv, Sumy, Poltava, Dnipropetrovsk, and Cherkasy oblasts were affected.
- **Attack on the night of March 19:** Air defense shot down 72 enemy drones, while another 56 decoy drones failed to reach their targets. At night, Russians struck Ukraine with two Iskander-M ballistic missiles, four S-300 surface-to-air missiles, and 145 attack UAVs from various directions. The attack affected the Sumy, Odesa, Poltava, Dnipropetrovsk, Kyiv, and Chernihiv oblasts.
- **Attack on the night of March 20:** Air defense shot down 75 enemy UAVs out of 171. Another 63 decoy drones were lost locationally. The Kirovohrad, Sumy, and Donetsk oblasts suffered from the attack.
- **Attack on the night of March 21:** Air defense shot down 114 enemy UAVs out of 214. Another 81 decoy drones were lost locationally. The attack affected the Odesa, Khmelnytskyi, Sumy, and Kyiv oblasts.
- **Attack on the night of March 22:** Air defense shot down 100 enemy UAVs out of 179. Another 63 decoy drones failed to reach their targets. The attack affected the Zaporizhzhia, Kharkiv, Sumy, and Kyiv oblasts.

## Zaporizhzhia oblast

- Throughout the week, the Zaporizhzhia oblast suffered from attacks by various types of UAVs and artillery strikes.

On March 21, Russian forces launched air bomb strikes on the Zaporizhzhia district. As a result, six people were injured, and two private houses were destroyed. Additionally, Russian forces attacked Zaporizhzhia city, killing three people and injuring 12 others. The attack also damaged private houses and apartment buildings.

Throughout the week, casualties, fatalities, and infrastructure destruction were recorded in the following settlements: Huliaipole, Novodanylivka, Shcherbaky, Mala Tokmachka, Vilniansk, Kamianske, Piatykhatky, Stepove, Vasyneva, Charivne, Novodarivka, Kushuhum, Lukianivske, Komyshuvakha, Shchaslyve, Yasna Poliana, Blakytne, Novoivanivka, Malokaterynivka, Rizdvianka, Nyzhnia Khortytsia, Tavriiske, Novoandriivka, Stepanivka, and Bilhorod-Dnistrovskiy districts.

## Odesa oblast

- On the night of March 17, Russian forces attacked the Odesa oblast with strike drones. As a result, one person was injured. The attack damaged a kindergarten, private residential houses, a store, an unused warehouse building, and a car.
- On March 20, the enemy launched another massive attack on Odesa and the region, including Odesa and Bilhorod-Dnistrovskiy districts. Civilian infrastructure was damaged, and three minors were injured.

## Kharkiv and the oblast

- Throughout the week, the Kharkiv oblast suffered from attacks by UAVs and guided aerial bombs (KABs).

On March 16, Russian forces launched three "Geran-2" UAVs at the city of Izium. As a result, one person was killed, and two others were injured. On March 18, Russian forces struck a VAZ car on the Kupiansk-Kindrashivka highway using an FPV drone. The attack resulted in one fatality and four injuries.

The following settlements were also targeted: Balakliia, Borova, Ivashky, Radkivka, Vilcha, Kamiana Yaruha, Velyka Shapivka, Hnylytsia, Udy, Pechenihiy, Ivanivske, Maliivka, Prykolotne, Riasne, Zolochiv, Shypuvate, Stetskivka, Petrivka, Pidlyman, Kurylivka, Mykhailivka, Tsyrkuny, Kurylivka, Verkhizoryanske, Ivano-Shyichyne.

## Sumy oblast

- Throughout the week, the Sumy oblast suffered from mortar and artillery shelling. Additionally, explosive devices were dropped from UAVs, and airstrikes were carried out using guided aerial bombs (KABs) and FPV drones.

On March 19, Russian UAVs destroyed part of Krasnopillia hospital. On March 21, Russian forces launched airstrikes with bombs on Krasnopillia and the village of Rozhkovychi. In Krasnopillia, two people were killed, and two others were injured. In Rozhkovychi, two people were wounded. Several administrative buildings and private houses were damaged or destroyed.

Other settlements that suffered attacks throughout the week include: Yunakivka, Sumy, Myropillia, Bilopillia, Mykolaivka, Khotin, Krasnopillia, Velyka Pysarivka, Nova Sloboda, Esman, Khutir-Mykhailivskiy, Shostka, Seredyna-Buda, Chernechchyna, Shalyhyne, Znob-Novhorod, Sadove, Hlukhiv, Stepanivka, Buryan, Putyvl, Okhtyrka, Nyzhnia Syrovatka, and Nedryhailivka communities.

## Dnipro and the oblast

- The cities of Nikopol, Dnipro, Pavlohrad, Kamianske, and Synelnykove districts, as well as Marhanets, Pokrovsk, Chervonohryhorivka, Myrove, Mezhova, Velyka Mykhailivka, and Novopavlivka communities, came under shelling and strikes.
- Russian forces used heavy artillery, multiple launch rocket systems (MLRS) "Grad," FPV drones, kamikaze drones, guided aerial bombs, and ballistic missiles. The Nikopol region suffered the most, with over 50 attacks. The strikes damaged more than 50 structures, including private homes and infrastructure facilities. One person was killed, and over ten were injured.
- On March 19, a missile attack on the Kamianske district injured five civilians and damaged a transportation company. On the same day, Russian forces launched two strikes on Dnipropetrovsk' railway infrastructure, injuring four railway workers, with two in critical condition.



## Donetsk oblast

- Throughout the week, the Donetsk oblast suffered from FPV drone and air bomb attacks.

On March 21, Russian forces dropped three air bombs on Kostiantynivka and attacked a civilian vehicle with an FPV drone. As a result, two people were killed, and two others were injured. Additionally, 36 private houses, 2 non-residential buildings, an infrastructure facility, 5 power lines, 2 gas pipelines, 3 garages, and 2 cars were damaged.

- Throughout the week, the following settlements were also targeted:
  - Volnovakha district: Bahatyr.
  - Pokrovsk district: Pokrovsk, Rodynske, Bilytske, Malynivka, Novoeconomichne, Myrnohrad, Dobropillia, Zoloty Kolodiaz.
  - Kramatorsk district: Lyman, Ivanopillia, Stinky, Kramatorsk, Sloviansk, Zarichne, Malynivka, Novodmytrivka.
  - Bakhmut district: Siversk.

## Chernihiv oblast

- Russian troops actively attacked the Chernihiv region, including Chernihiv, as well as villages and cities in the Semenivka, Snovsk, Novgorod-Siverskyi, Horodnia communities, as well as the Koriukivka and Pryluky districts. For the shelling, the enemy used attack drones, FPV drones, mortars, cannon artillery, unguided air missiles, as well as guided aerial bombs.

On March 16, Shahed hits were recorded in two districts of Chernihiv. One of them hit a five-story building, and the other damaged two private houses. As a result of the drone attack on March 18 in the Pryluky district, 30 households were damaged, and in the border Semenivka - due to an attack by guided aerial bombs - residential buildings were damaged.

## Kherson and the oblast

- Shelling and airstrikes hit more than 50 settlements, including Kherson, Beryslav, Antonivka, Bilozerka, Stanislav, Shliakhove, Novoraisk, Kizomys, Dudchany, Zmiivka, Chervonyi Maiak, Odradokamianka, Olhivka, Osokorivka, and many others.
- Russian forces targeted residential areas, critical, and social infrastructure, damaging at least 15 apartment buildings, over 80 private houses, a gas pipeline, power lines, a cell tower, an ambulance, private vehicles, garages, and more.
- During this period, 7 people were killed, and 38 others were injured as a result of the shelling.

On March 21 alone, nearly 40 settlements in the Kherson region came under fire. On March 17, a "Point of Invincibility" was damaged during another attack.

## Other oblasts

- On March 17th, drones attacked the Kremenchuk district of the Poltava oblast - emergency power outages were introduced there. Explosions were also heard in Kremenchuk on March 20th. On March 18th, explosions were heard in Cherkasy.
- On March 18th, debris was recorded falling on the territory of a school in one of the districts of Kyiv. And on March 19th, damage to 10 private houses was recorded in the Kyiv oblast and the capital as a result of another drone attack. 1 person was injured then. On March 21st, a house caught fire in the capital as a result of falling debris.
- On the night of March 20th, Kropyvnytskyi came under a massive drone attack. 14 people were injured, including 7 children. Residential buildings were damaged in the city: the private sector and multi-story buildings.
- In addition, during the week, shelling of the Ochakiv, Kutsurub and Halitsynivka communities of the Mykolaiv oblast was recorded. There were no casualties there.



# The week of shelling

Donetsk oblast



Zaporizhzhia oblast



Odesa oblast



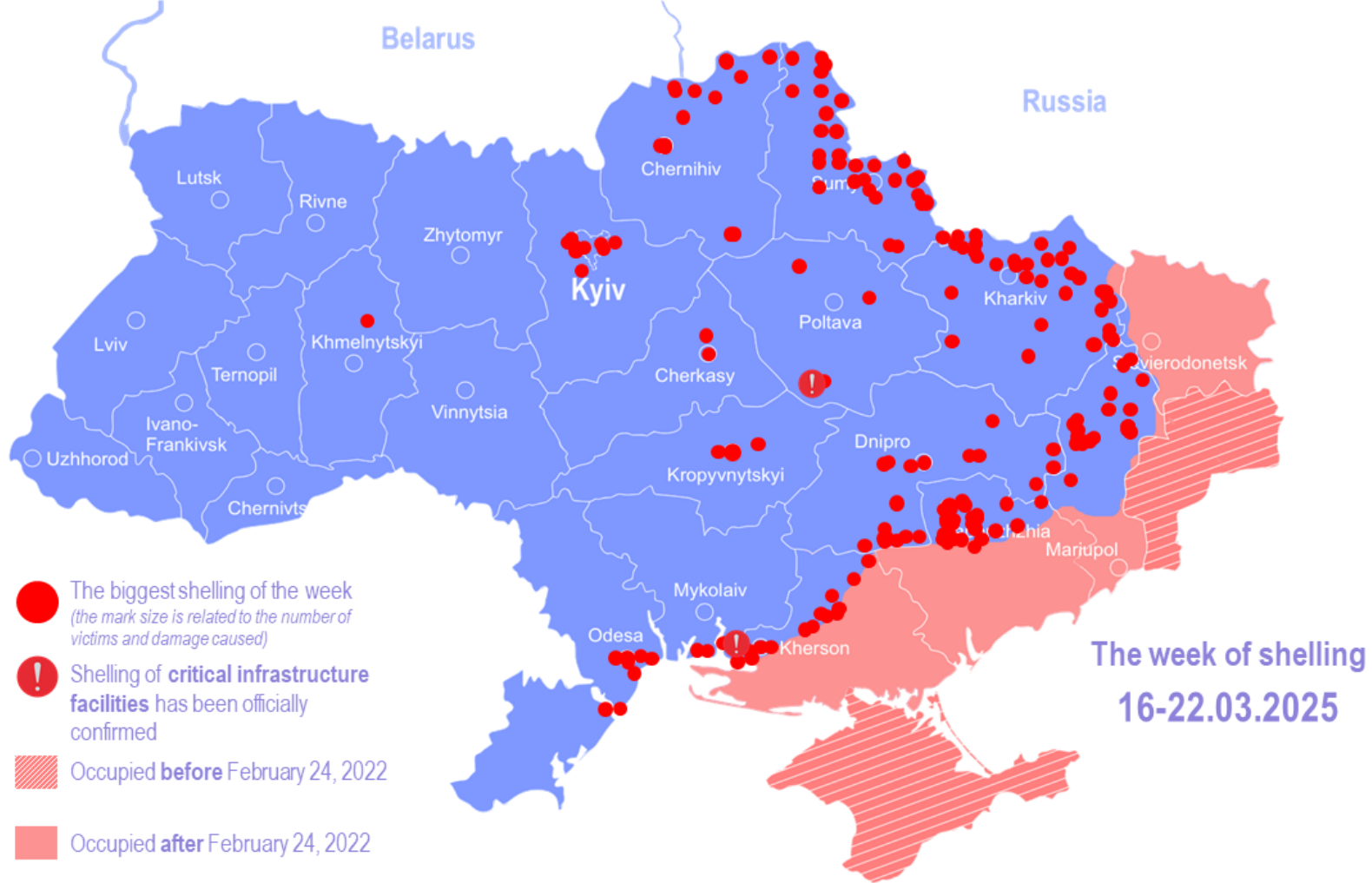
Kharkiv oblast



Sumy oblast



Chernihiv oblast





## Infrastructure and Energy

- Ten people, including four children, were injured in a nighttime drone attack in Kropyvnytskyi on March 19. The police documented this as the largest Russian attack on the city.
- The drone attack resulted in explosions in schools and colleges, shattering glass and damaging window frames. 20 schools and a vocational school switched to distance learning.
- The Factor-Druk printing house, which was damaged by the Russian shelling of Kharkiv on May 23, 2024, has been fully restored. The Russian shelling destroyed the binding shop of the printing house. 7 people were killed, and 22 other employees were injured. The fire consumed 50,000 books and according to the owner, this destruction was to affect **the entire book publishing industry of Ukraine** and reduce the total capacity of all printing houses by 30-40%.
- In Zaporizhzhia, the construction of the sixth underground school in a radiation shelter at the Elint collegium has been completed. The premises, which cover more than 1,400 square meters, will allow 500 students to study safely.

## International Support

- The Italian Agency for Development Cooperation has announced a grant competition for mine and explosive device clearance in Ukraine's frontline regions. Kharkiv Oblast was chosen as a priority for project implementation.
- Russia has committed crimes against humanity in the Temporarily Occupied Territories (TOT) during its full-scale invasion of Ukraine, according to the UN International Commission of Inquiry. Acts of enforced disappearances against civilians were carried out as part of a coordinated state policy and qualify as crimes against humanity.
- As part of its European support, Switzerland has doubled its funding for Ukraine's reconstruction to 100 million francs and will allocate a total of 1.5 billion francs in 2025-2028. Ukraine has also received a €1 billion tranche from the EU under the G7 ERA initiative, secured by income from frozen Russian assets. This tranche will be used to finance priority state budget expenditures. In addition, the EU is allocating €10 million for independent media in Ukraine.

## Human Rights Violations

- Russian occupiers continue to illegally persecute and detain local residents in Crimea. There are people with disabilities among the political prisoners held by the Russian Federation in colonies. According to the Crimean Tatar Resource Center (CTRC), the lack of proper medical care and poor detention conditions have led to worsening health and, in some cases, death.

## Consequences of the War for Civilians

- About 1.6 million Ukrainian children are in Russia and the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine under Russian control, according to Andrii Yermak, head of the Office of the President of Ukraine.
- According to the WHO, many residents of Ukraine have difficulty accessing clean water, which increases the risk of disease spread. Experts estimate that in 2024, 9.6 million Ukrainians needed basic water supply and sanitation services. The total cost of reconstruction and recovery of the country is estimated at \$11.3 billion for 2025-2033.

## Prisoners of War

- On March 19, Ukraine brought home 175 prisoners of war in exchange for 175 Russians. Among the released were the Armed Forces and the National Guard soldiers, border guards, territorial defense forces, and the navy. There are also defenders of Mariupol and participants in the Kursk operation. Additionally, 22 servicemen with severe injuries were repatriated.

## Temporarily Occupied Territories (TOT) and Evacuation

- An 18-year-old girl who had lived under Russian occupation for more than 10 years has been brought to the territory controlled by Ukraine. Her hometown was occupied by Russian troops in 2014. Upon coming of age, the girl decided to leave the occupied area and turned to volunteers for help.
- Ukraine has lost 17% of its arable land to the occupation, and Russians are exporting Ukrainian crops. According to a new Agribusiness of Ukraine infographic guide, 17% of Ukraine's arable land, or 4.5 million hectares, is under occupation. Zaporizhzhia Oblast has suffered the biggest losses. In addition, 1.6 million hectares of arable land in the government-controlled area remain uncultivated due to the hostilities.

