
Current Intelligence Report Circular

CLASSIFICATION: DECLASSIFIED AND APPROVED FOR PUBLIC RELEASE

Report Topic: Responses to the Russo-Ukrainian war in Poland, Slovakia, Hungary, and Romania

Production Date: 28 February 2022

CMC Director: Kevin Joyce

Report Author(s): Aubrey Belanger and Kevin Joyce

NATO member countries increase their actions towards Russia in support of Ukraine

After receiving criticism from Ukrainian officials and other allies for its lack of response to the Russo-Ukrainian War, Germany has stated it is sending lethal weapons to Ukraine. The aid includes up to 10,000 tons of fuel, 1,000 anti-tank weapons, 500 FIM-92 Stinger missiles, and 14 armored vehicles. German Chancellor, Olaf Scholz, expressed that, in order to protect Germany's freedom and democracy, Berlin will be contributing 100 billion euros of Germany's military spending to Ukraine. Germany is also putting in place a three-month ban on Russian flights in its airspace and is in the process of constructing two new terminals for liquefied natural gas that could supply some of Eastern Europe. The International Investment Bank (IIB) and the International Bank for Economic Co-operation (IBEC) are multilateral banks that rely on Russia as their biggest shareholder. The Czech and Romanian governments stated on 28 FEB that they are starting the process of withdrawing from the two Soviet-era banks. The Czech Finance Ministry is urging other European Union member states to join in the withdrawal. At the moment, the pressure is on Bulgaria, Hungary, and Slovakia to withdraw. However, Hungary is declining to get involved in the Russo-Ukrainian War. Hungary's Prime Minister, Victor Orbán, stated that Hungary's primary focus should be internal. Orbán has stated that Hungary is willing and ready to take in Ukrainian refugees, but will not supply weapons to the country. END

CMCD Note

Germany is set to become one of the vital actors in garnering military aid and support for the Ukrainians. Poland is continuing to become increasingly more vocal on what it sees as the dire need for NATO countries to place heavier sanctions on Russia and withdraw from all banking-related institutions that Russia participates in. The continued withdrawal of NATO allies from these institutions will continue to decrease the Russian ruble's value to the US dollar, which has seen an almost 30% decline since the invasion on 24 FEB. Poland also declared the potential for the blockading of Western Ukraine, by Russia, to prevent NATO forces from sending aid into the country. Hungary's Orbán declared on 28 FEB that they Hungary will not allow lethal weapons into its territory, in fear of an inability to protect its own borders. This signals Hungary's desire to remain ready for a possible spill-over of the war. In the beginning of FEB, Orbán met with Putin and validated Russia's demands for security guarantees in the region, signaling the unwillingness of Hungary to terminate all relations with Russia.

Sources

In a major shift, Germany will send weapons to Ukraine

<https://apnews.com/article/russia-ukraine-vladimir-putin-business-economy-olaf-scholz-7c992cb1668842279b890c5d81c54f6a>

Germany to ramp up military spending in major policy shift

[DNGTS] <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/2/27/germany-to-ramp-up-military-spending-in-major-policy-shift>

Hungary to stay out of Ukraine-Russia conflict, Orbán says

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/reuters/article-10557653/Hungary-stay-Ukraine-Russia-conflict-Orban-says.html>

Czechia and Romania accelerate escape from Soviet-Era “spy” banks

<https://balkaninsight.com/2022/02/28/czechia-and-romania-accelerate-escape-from-soviet-era-spy-banks/>

Poland warns Russia may seek to block border with Ukraine

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2022-02-28/poland-warns-russia-may-seek-to-block-border-with-ukraine>

Hungary not to supply arms to Ukraine

[DNGTS] <https://english.almayadeen.net/news/politics/hungary-not-to-supply-arms-to-ukraine>