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# Current Intelligence Report Circular

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**Report Topic:** Responses to war in Poland, Slovakia, Hungary, and Romania

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## Polish government offers support to Ukrainian government amid the start of Russo-Ukrainian War

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On 22 FEB, the Polish government approved a homeland defense bill to increase defense spending in order to enhance its military forces. This bill would increase the share of defense spending to 2.3 percent in 2023 instead of 2024, and to 2.5 percent in 2026 instead of 2030, as planned in the current technical modernization act. By increasing its defense spending, the military can quickly increase the number of forces and create a new Military Forces Support Fund designed to improve national security and deter potential aggressors, according to Defense Minister Mariusz Błaszczak. The bill is expected to be processed and have its first reading either this week or next week. Ukrainian pilots arrived in Poland on 28 FEB to start the process of taking control of fighter jets expected to be donated by European countries. These include 28 MiG-29s from Poland and 12 MiG-29s from Slovakia. These planes are Russian-made and similar to those used by the Ukrainian air force, so the pilots will require less training, if the planes are indeed transferred. Poland, Estonia, and Latvia also sent ammunition, Javelin anti-armor weapons, fuel, and medical supplies to the Ukrainian border for hand-off to Ukrainian forces. After Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky signed Ukraine's application for membership in the European Union (EU) on 27 FEB, Poland's Foreign Minister, Zbigniew Rau, expressed the view that Poland has always advocated for Ukraine's membership in the EU and will do everything possible to assist Ukraine's accession to the EU. END.

### CMCD Note

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Aside from Poland's increasing call for heavier sanctions on Russia, the country has been silently bolstering its domestic security in case of war spill-over. With recent cyberattacks on Ukrainian banks and governmental websites, Poland has begun its own cybersecurity initiative to prevent potential Russian hacking. Out of the eastern NATO allies that border Ukraine, Poland has been the key country for troop-stationing by the US and other NATO allies. Poland is the largest Eastern European defense spender, behind Russia itself. Prior to the 24 FEB invasion, Polish delegates had made several trips to Kyiv to show their support for Ukraine. It is important to note that Poland, Latvia, Estonia and Lithuania, were the first countries to suggest invoking Article Four of NATO, which states that any member can call for a consultation of the North Atlantic Council when "the territorial integrity, political independence or security of any of the parties is threatened". Poland's 2.3% defense spending increase will place its military budget at ~\$12.2 billion for 2022, up from ~\$12 billion. Their 2026 goal of 2.5%, will place their budget at ~\$12.4 billion. This will place Poland near, or in, the top 20 of military spending in the world.

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