
Current Intelligence Report Circular

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

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Hungary will not transport weapons or troops to Ukraine and does not support sanctions on energy

Hungary has taken in over 200,000 refugees from Ukraine so far, and will continue to supply humanitarian aid to incoming refugees. However, Hungary's Prime Minister, Viktor Orbán, has stated that Hungary will not be sending weapons or troops to Ukraine. On 07 MAR, Orbán signed a decree to forbid the transportation of lethal weapons to and from Ukraine. The decree will allow North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) troops to be stationed in Hungary, and will permit the shipment of weapons through Hungary to other NATO territories. While Hungary claims it does support Ukraine and wants to create peace and provide assistance, Prime Minister Orbán has continuously affirmed that the security of Hungary and the Hungarian people are his top priority. Therefore, Hungary will stay out of the war. Péter Szijjártó, Poland's Minister of Foreign Affairs, has also stated that Hungary cannot support sanctions that would jeopardize energy supplies, which would leave Hungarians without heat and increase public utility bills. However, Prime Minister Orbán has promised that Hungary will not veto any European Union (EU) sanctions on Russia, in order to preserve the unity of the EU. Hungary continues to welcome anyone fleeing Ukraine and is working to place refugees into jobs, despite Hungary's high unemployment. END

CMCD Note

Prime Minister Orbán has been in power for 12 years and is running for re-election in April. Orbán's party has been eliminating checks on his power and stripping away democratic processes in the country. During his term, Hungary has had one of the closest relationships with Russia out of all EU countries. Following the invasion of Ukraine, Orbán has had to shift his campaign narrative away from his pro-Russian stance. He has been known to be skilled at shifting narratives, and his party has the full backing of the state media. Orbán has shown progressively greater support for his fellow EU leaders, sanctions on Russia, and increasing the security of Hungary's borders, military, and economy. The opposition party challenging Orbán has been neck-and-neck with his party in recent popularity polls, leaving Orbán highly focused on securing his role as prime minister before shifting focus back to Ukraine.

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