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# Trend Analysis and Assessment Report

**CLASSIFICATION LEVEL: DECLASSIFIED** AND APPROVED FOR PUBLIC RELEASE

**Report Topic:** Short-Term Assessment of Responses to the Russo-Ukrainian War by the US, EU, and NATO
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## EU, US and NATO unlikely to deploy troops to Ukraine: Security and humanitarian concerns ongoing

**Key Takeaway**
It can be assessed with high confidence that the United States (US), European Union (EU), and North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) will not change their defense posture by deploying troops into Ukraine. Based on reports that NATO leaders aim to prevent NATO escalation with Russia, we assess that it is highly unlikely that NATO will impose a no-fly zone over Ukrainian airspace [01]. As discussed at the emergency NATO summit on March 24, the US, EU, and NATO will issue further security and humanitarian aid to the Ukraine [02]. It is highly likely that this aid distribution will continue for at least the next month.

**Trend Pattern**
Emergency meetings between the US, EU, and NATO over the last month have consisted of response decisions to the Russian-Ukrainian War. During these meetings, the US, EU, and NATO have agreed to dispense security and humanitarian aid, but have declined to implement troop deployment in Ukraine. Additionally, the EU, US, and NATO have all imposed various sanctions on Russia amidst the conflict.

• On March 24, NATO held an emergency summit to discuss further aid distribution to the Ukraine and troop posture in NATO member states surrounding the Ukraine and Russia. NATO agreed to respond to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky's request for an increase in security aid, by pledging further defense systems. NATO also agreed to provide Ukraine with emergency equipment capable of defending against biological, chemical, and nuclear threats from Russia [03].

• In a press conference following the NATO summit, US President Joe Biden indicated that NATO would "respond in kind" in the event of a Russian chemical weapon attack on the Ukraine [04]. When pressed further about what that response may consist of, President Biden indicated that a decision would be made by NATO "at that time" [04]. The White House has issued reports indicating that there is a response team creating contingency plans as to how Western allies would respond in the event of chemical weapons use by Russian forces; however, these plans are not available for public viewing [05].

• On February 24, EU leaders held an emergency meeting in which they imposed a first round of sanctions on Russia amidst the Russian-Ukrainian War [06]. Meanwhile, NATO has repeatedly declined President Zelensky's request to implement a no-fly zone over Ukrainian airspace.

• On March 16, President Zelensky asked US Congress directly to assist in persuading NATO to enforce a no-fly zone over Ukrainian airspace [07]. Reportedly, President Biden has stated that the US will not endorse a no-fly zone over Ukraine, in fear of escalating the conflict into NATO territories [07].

**Assessment**

The US, EU, and NATO have continuously vocalized their support for Ukraine. Therefore, it is highly likely that the US, EU, and NATO will continue to supply the Ukraine with defense systems and humanitarian aid for at least the next month. Additionally, it is highly likely that the US, EU, and NATO will continue to impose sanctions on Russia and Russian officials for at least the next month. It is highly likely that emergency meetings between these entities will continue, so as to determine further response as the Russia-Ukrainian war continues.

We assess with high confidence that, while the US, EU, and NATO will continue to support the Ukraine through various degrees of aid and imposing sanctions on Russia, it is increasingly unlikely that the US, EU, or NATO will deploy troops into the Ukraine. Additionally, it is highly unlikely the US, EU, or NATO will impose a no-fly zone over the Ukraine, in order to avoid retaliation from Russian forces.

**Broader Implications**

Based on responses to the Russian-Ukrainian War by the US, EU, and NATO, we assess that it is highly likely that preventing Russian escalation into NATO member states serves as a top priority. Imposing a no-fly zone over Ukraine may potentially escalate the conflict into NATO territory based on the responsibilities that come with imposing a no-fly zone over a nation. According to reports, if NATO were to impose a no-fly zone over Ukraine, it would have to be ready to fire at any Russian aircraft invading that airspace [08]. It is highly likely that this would escalate to an all-out conflict between Russia and NATO.

**Indicators**

We will continue to monitor further responses to the Russian-Ukrainian War by the US, EU, and NATO, in order to determine the likelihood of the conflict escalating outside of Ukraine and into NATO member states. Additionally, we will monitor NATO responses in the event of a chemical weapon attack in Ukraine by Russian forces, as the NATO posture regarding this potential event is not publicly available.

**Sources**

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