



EIB World Trade Headlines

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Turkey agrees to back Sweden's NATO bid, secretary general says

Turkey had opposed Sweden's bid to join the alliance since it applied last year after Russia invaded Ukraine

July 10, 2023, 4:00 PM EDT / Updated July 10, 2023, 4:41 PM EDT
By [Phil McCausland](#)

Turkey has agreed to support Sweden's bid to join the NATO military alliance after a year of opposition, NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg said Monday. He called the moment a "historic step."

Turkey President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan agreed to send the accession protocol to the Turkish parliament for approval as soon as possible, Stoltenberg said, noting that Erdoğan would "ensure ratification." "Sweden will become a full member of the alliance," Stoltenberg said.

Stoltenberg held talks between Erdoğan and Swedish Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson the evening before the NATO summit was scheduled to begin in Vilnius, Lithuania, on Tuesday.

Erdoğan and President Joe Biden discussed Sweden's membership bid over the phone Monday. They decided to meet in person in Vilnius on Tuesday, said Jake Sullivan, Biden's national security adviser.

Most NATO members have supported Sweden's efforts to join in the wake of Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Turkey, however, had maintained its opposition, which had stymied hopes for more than a year.

Sweden originally applied with Finland in May 2022 after years of appearing neutral in the growing tension between Russia and the West. Finland finally joined the alliance in April, adding an 830-mile land border between NATO territory and Russia.

Turkey had maintained its objections to Sweden's bid because there is a prevailing view in Ankara that Sweden supports Kurdish groups that Turkish leadership considers to be terrorists. The Kurds, a Muslim minority group, make up about a fifth of Turkey's population, and they have had a volatile and, at times, violent relationship with the government.

Sweden is one of several European countries that have welcomed the Kurdish diaspora, and Stockholm has been host to several protests in support of the Kurdistan Workers' Party, or PKK — which Sweden and Turkey officially consider a terrorist group.

Stoltenberg said he worked with Kristersson and Erdoğan "to address Turkey's legitimate security concerns."

"Sweden has amended its constitution, changed its laws significantly, expanded its counterterrorism cooperation against the PKK and resumed arms exports to Turkey," Stoltenberg said. "Sweden's cooperation with Turkey in the fight against terrorism will continue beyond accession to NATO, and Sweden agreed today to establish a new bilateral security compact."

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As part of the agreement, NATO will also increase its efforts in those areas, Stoltenberg said, and he will create the post of special coordinator for counterterrorism.

Boasting the second-largest military in the alliance, of which it has been a member since 1952, Turkey has held out against pressure to allow Sweden's ascension with the support of Hungary. It is believed, however, that Hungary will follow Turkey's lead, allowing Sweden to become a full member of NATO.

Though it does not share a land border with Russia, Sweden will further impinge on Russia's power if its membership is approved, analysts say. Stockholm's naval and air power on the Baltic Sea, along with the eight NATO countries that border the sea, are likely to temper the Kremlin's power in the region and its ability to threaten NATO members.

"Integrated control of the entire area will make defense of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania easier, since Swedish territory and airspace in particular are important for such efforts. This will strengthen deterrence and make a conflict there less likely," Carl Bildt, a former prime minister and foreign minister of Sweden, wrote in Foreign Affairs last year.

"But perhaps the most important consequence of Finnish and Swedish accession to NATO," he said, "would be to increase the alliance's political strength as the pillar of the defense of Europe and the transatlantic area."

CORRECTION (July 10, 2023, 7:30 p.m. ET): A previous version of this article misstated the name of the Kurdish party the Turkish government considers a terrorist group. It is the Kurdistan Workers' Party, not the Kurdish Worker's Party.

China-based hackers breach email accounts at State Department

Microsoft said a known group that primarily focuses on hacking Western governments to spy on them had breached some accounts.

July 12, 2023, 8:45 AM EDT / Updated July 13, 2023, 9:38 AM EDT
By Kevin Collier

Hackers based in China recently broke into email accounts of at least two major U.S. government agencies, Microsoft and U.S. officials said. Spokespeople for the State Department and Commerce Department each confirmed Wednesday that email accounts of people in their agencies had been breached. Microsoft said approximately 25 organization were part of the hack. The other organizations that were breached have not been identified.

Neither agency said how many individuals were affected.

The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), the federal cybersecurity watchdog, announced Wednesday that it first learned of the hacking campaign in mid-June. The campaign lasted around a month.

Top Chinese officials met with leaders from the State and Commerce Departments around that period.

China's commerce minister, Wang Wentao, met in the U.S. with Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo and trade representative Katherine Tai on May 25. Secretary of State Antony Blinken met with Chinese president Xi Jinping in Beijing on June 19.

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The Washington Post and the New York Times reported that Raimondo's email was compromised as part of the breach. NBC News has not confirmed those reports.

Microsoft did not name any of the affected countries or agencies, but said that the group primarily focuses on hacking Western governments to spy on them. Microsoft said it worked with CISA to kick the hackers out.

Sen. Mark Warner, D-Va., head of the Senate Intelligence Committee, said he and other committee members were "closely monitoring what appears to be a significant cybersecurity breach by Chinese intelligence."

"It's clear that the PRC is steadily improving its cyber collection capabilities directed against the U.S. and our allies," Warner added, using an acronym for the People's Republic of China. "Close coordination between the U.S. government and the private sector will be critical to countering this threat."

In a press call Wednesday, a senior CISA official, who requested to not be named as terms to participate in the call, declined to say exactly how many other U.S. federal agencies were affected, but said that the number "is in the single digits."

The hacks started May 15 and went undetected until June 16, Microsoft announced in a report Tuesday evening. The perpetrators were primarily focused on gaining access to email accounts and no longer have that access, it said.

The hackers were able to view victims' emails, and appeared to only target a handful of specific people, the official said.

"This appears to have been a very targeted, surgical campaign," he said. Only unclassified mailboxes were affected, he said.

A spokesperson for the State Department said the agency took "immediate steps to secure" its system.

"As a matter of cybersecurity policy, we do not discuss the details of our response. The incident remains under investigation. And we continuously monitor our networks and update our security procedures," said Matthew Miller, a State Department spokesperson. Microsoft did not say whether it believed the hacker group is affiliated with China's government.

Unlike those working for Russia or Iran, hackers working for China rarely focus on disrupting their targets, but they are generally regarded as some of the most prolific cyber spies in the world.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin on Thursday urged U.S. officials to provide more details about the hacking.

"The U.S. side should give an account of its cyberattacks as soon as possible, rather than spreading false information to divert attention," he said at a regular news briefing in Beijing, according to the state-owned China News Service.

European Union Publishes 11th Sanctions Package Against Russia

On June 23, 2023, the European Union adopted its 11th Sanctions Package against Russia.

The new package introduces additional asset freeze measures, as well as new prohibitions on the provision of services and on exports to Russia, such as the sale, licensing or transfer of intellectual property rights or trade secrets. It also focuses on tackling the circumvention of existing measures and on an increased cooperation between member states.

The 11th Sanctions Package also introduces additional grounds for authorisations to release certain frozen funds or economic resources belonging to the designated persons, as well as to undertake certain, otherwise prohibited activities.

1. New asset freeze measures and prohibitions on trade in goods and services

(a) Asset freeze measures and authorizations

The 11th Sanctions Package results in the addition of 71 individuals and 33 entities to the list of individuals and entities subject to the European Union's asset freeze measures. Notably, the list of entities now includes two additional banks: the MRB Bank and the CMR Bank. In addition, the Union adds a new ground for the listing of individuals significantly frustrating the prohibition against circumvention of the EU sanctions against Russia.

The 11th Sanctions Package also introduces new grounds for authorisations to release certain frozen funds or economic resources belonging to designated persons, among others:

-for the conversion by nationals or residents of member states or EU entities of a depositary receipt with Russian underlying security held with the Russian National Settlement Depository for the purpose of selling the underlying security

-for the release of funds or economic resources necessary for the setting up, certification and evaluation of a firewall which removes the control over the assets of a non-listed person owned or controlled by a listed person, and which ensures that no further funds or economic resources accrue for the benefit of the listed person

-for authorization relates to the release of frozen funds or economic resources belonging to VTB Bank and the Russian National Settlement Depository, as well as the making available of funds and economic resources to them, necessary for the disposal or the transfer of securities by an entity in the Union currently or previously controlled by VTB Bank

(b) Export Restrictions

The new sanctions package prohibits the sale, licensing, transfer or the granting of rights to access or re-use intellectual property rights or trade secrets related to certain goods and technology subject to export restrictions (e.g., dual-use items, goods suited for use in oil refining and liquefaction of natural gas, for use in aviation or the space industry, or for maritime navigation) to individuals or entities in Russia, or for use in Russia.

The European Union furthermore prohibits the unauthorized transit of goods through Russia which might contribute to Russia's military and technological enhancement, or the development of the defence and security sector (Annex VII items), suited for use in aviation or the space industry (Annex XI items) and of jet fuel and fuel additives (Annex XX items).

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The 11th Sanctions Package adds 87 new entries to the list of entities for which enhanced export restrictions apply (Annex IV entities) and subjects new items to export prohibitions under Annex VII, including electronic components, semiconductor material, manufacturing and testing equipment for electronic integrated circuits and printed circuit boards, precursors to energetic materials and precursors to chemical weapons, optical components, navigational instruments, metals used in the defence sector and marine equipment. Further export prohibitions are imposed on goods which could contribute to the enhancement of Russian industrial capacities in Annex XXIII.

(c) Import Restrictions

The 11th Sanctions Package prohibits access to Union ports and locks to any vessel that the competent authority has reasonable cause to suspect is in breach of the prohibitions applicable to crude oil and petroleum products. An exemption applies for maritime safety or for lifesaving efforts at sea, and an authorization can be obtained for humanitarian purposes.

A similar prohibition was added for vessels performing ship-to-ship transfers in the exclusive economic zone of a member state or 12 nautical miles from a member state coastline without informing the competent authority at least 48 hours in advance, or illegally interfering, switching off or disabling automatic identification systems, at any point of a voyage to a member state's ports or locks.

Regarding the forthcoming prohibition to import or purchase certain iron and steel products—when processed in a third country incorporating iron and steel products originating in Russia—it has been clarified that, at the moment of importation, importers must provide evidence of the country of origin of the iron and steel inputs used for the processing of the product in a third country.

(d) Prohibition on the provision of services

Regarding the prohibition to supply services to the entities established in Russia the 11th Sanctions Package provides, among others, for the following additional grounds for authorizations:

-for the provision of accounting, auditing, including statutory audit, bookkeeping or tax consulting services, or business and management consulting or public relations services, as well as architectural and engineering services, legal advisory services and IT, if necessary to remove the control by a listed person of a non-listed entity

-for the provision of auditing services, engineering services, legal advisory services and technical testing and analysis services for the operation and maintenance of the Caspian Pipeline Consortium

-for the provision of legal services required for the completion of a sale or transfer of proprietary rights directly or indirectly by a Russian entity in an EU entity

The already existing ground for authorisation for the provision of services necessary for the divestment from Russia, or the wind-down of business activities in Russia, is extended until 31 March 2024.

2. Tackling the circumvention of existing measures

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In order to address the transshipment of controlled items to Russia through third countries, the 11th Sanctions Package introduces the possibility to restrict the sale, supply, transfer or export of certain goods and technology to certain third countries in the future. The European Union also introduces the possibility to prohibit the provision of technical assistance, brokering services or other services and the provision of financing or financial assistance for such goods to persons in these countries or for use in these countries. The prohibition on the sale, license or transfer of intellectual property rights or trade secrets also applies to these countries and goods.

At present, however, the European Union has neither identified any goods and technology subject to these restrictions, nor identified the third countries that would be subject to these restrictions. It is expected that the addition of specific items and third countries to which these items cannot be sold will only be used as a last resort if bilateral or multilateral cooperation fails to yield the intended result of preventing circumvention, and when individual measures against operators of the third country are insufficient or inadequate to prevent circumvention. Importantly, in parallel to the publication of the 11th Sanctions Package, the European Commission ("Commission") published a list of items for which anomalous trade flows via certain third countries to Russia have been detected. This list is meant to help exporters and authorities of third countries to prevent the use of their territory for circumvention purposes. The Commission also published a similar list of high priority battlefield items. These lists will likely serve as the basis for future listings of products under Annex XXXIII.

The 11th Sanctions Package also requires EU economic operators to immediately supply any information which would facilitate the implementation of EU sanctions to the competent authority of the member state where they are resident or located within two weeks of acquiring this information. Before, a similar obligation only existed for asset freeze measures. This new obligation, together with the enhanced cooperation between Member States detailed below, will give national competent authorities ("NCAs") the necessary data to identify and act against violations of EU sanctions, including their circumvention.

3. Increased cooperation between member states

In an attempt to avoid conflicting decisions between NCAs, the 11th Sanctions Package includes measures to enhance cooperation between member states on the granting and denial of authorisations. In particular, EU member states denying an authorisation shall inform other member states, and before granting an authorisation for a transaction that is essentially identical to a transaction subject to a denial in another member state, a member state shall first consult the member state which issued the denial.

Mayer Brown provides an integrated Sanctions & Export Control practice covering the three key jurisdictions (the United States, European Union, and United Kingdom) and capable of providing rapid consolidated and practical advice on how to comply with sometimes conflicting and diverging sanctions regimes. For further information on sanctions developments from the European Union, United States, United Kingdom, and other jurisdictions, please visit our Sanctions & Export Controls page.

<https://www.mayerbrown.com/en/perspectives-events/publications/2023/06/european-union-publishes-11th-sanctions-package-against-russia>

US is destroying the last of its once-vast chemical weapons arsenal

By Dave Philipps and John Ismay New York Times, Updated July 6, 2023, 3:42 p.m.

Decades behind its initial schedule, the dangerous job of eliminating the world's only remaining declared stockpile of lethal chemical munitions will be completed soon. KENNY HOLSTON/NYT

PUEBLO, Colo. — In a sealed room behind a gantlet of armed guards and three rows of high barbed wire at the Army's Pueblo Chemical Depot in Colorado, a team of robotic arms was busily disassembling some of the last of the United States' vast and ghastly stockpile of chemical weapons.

In went artillery shells filled with deadly mustard agent that the Army had been storing for more than 70 years. The bright yellow robots pierced, drained, and washed each shell, then baked it at 1,500 degrees Fahrenheit. Out came inert and harmless scrap metal, falling off a conveyor belt into an ordinary brown dumpster with a resounding clank.

"That's the sound of a chemical weapon dying," said Kingston Reif, who spent years pushing for disarmament outside government and is now the deputy assistant secretary of defense for threat reduction and arms control. He smiled as another shell clanked into the dumpster.

The US-China Tech War Marches On Insights, analysis and must reads from CNN's Fareed Zakaria and the Global Public Square team, compiled by Global Briefing editor Chris Good

First, the US levied sanctions on Chinese tech giants ZTE and Huawei; then, it used export controls to restrict Chinese access to US-developed microchips, rallying Japan and the Netherlands to its side in that campaign.

Now, China has retaliated, leveraging its long-known advantage in mining the rare metals needed to make high-tech components. As Nikkei Asia's Cheng Ting-Fang and Lauly Li detail, China has released a set of rules curbing the export of gallium, germanium and related compound metals; collectively, these metals are used in products and components including power amplifiers, telecommunications equipment, fiber optics and high-power-load microchips "vital for emerging industries from EVs to renewable energy to military tech."

The US is trying to catch up—a Nikkei Asia feature by Yifan Yu details efforts to mine more high-tech-critical metals in the US—and its own sanctions campaign continues to evolve. As The Wall Street Journal's Yuka Hayashi and John D. McKinnon report, the Biden administration has proposed limiting China's access to cloud-computing services that could circumvent the closure of its access to powerful computer processors.

Underwater Arms Race?

As the mysterious bombing of the Nord Stream 2 pipeline demonstrated last year, some economic and geopolitical vulnerabilities run across the ocean floor. In a recent paper on underwater security edited by Elio Calcagno and Alessandro Marrone for the Italian think tank Istituto Affari Internazionali, an unfolding competition is identified.

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From the abstract: “Technological advancements in the field of uncrewed underwater vehicles (UUV) and the increasing number of underwater critical infrastructures (UCI)—such as pipelines and internet cables—have made the environment below the seas’ surface a prominent stage for geopolitical competition. ... Moreover, operating in this challenging environment requires mastering advanced technological solutions to cope with high pressures and the opacity of water, which severely limits or denies wireless communications technologies commonly used above the surface. Large and mid-sized navies around the world are enhancing their submarine fleets or acquiring this technology for the first time, leading to an ever more competitive and contested underwater domain.”

BIS announces 4th TTC Export Control Outreach on July 19

The Bureau of Industry and Security (BIS), in cooperation with DG Trade of the European Commission, will hold the 4th stakeholders outreach event under the US-EU Technology Trade Council (US-EU TTC) Export Control Working Group on July 19. The event will focus on re-export of dual-use items. Please see the link 4th Joint EU-US stakeholders outreach event Re-export of dual-use items (europa.eu)

https://policy.trade.ec.europa.eu/events/4th-joint-eu-us-stakeholders-outreach-event-re-export-dual-use-items-2023-07-19_en

China Restricts Export of Chipmaking Metals in Clash With US

Bloomberg News

Beijing will limit gallium and germanium exports from Aug. 1. Both metals are indispensable for producing some chips

China imposed restrictions on exporting two metals that are crucial to parts of the semiconductor, telecommunications and electric-vehicle industries in an escalation of the country’s tit-for-tat trade war on technology with the US and Europe.

Gallium and germanium, along with their chemical compounds, will be subject to export controls meant to protect Chinese national security starting Aug. 1, China’s Ministry of Commerce said in a statement Monday. Exporters for the two metals will need to apply for licenses from the commerce ministry if they want to start or continue to ship them out of the country, and will be required to report details of the overseas buyers and their applications, it said.

Read more: What Are Gallium and Germanium? Niche Metals Hit by China Curbs

China is battling for technological dominance in everything from quantum computing to artificial intelligence and chip manufacturing. The US has taken increasingly aggressive measures to keep China from gaining the upper-hand and has called upon allies in Europe and Asia to do the same, with some success. The export limits are also coming at a time when nations around the world are working to rid their supply chains of dependencies on overseas equipment.

Impact on the tech industry “depends on the stockpile of equipment on hand,” said Roger Entner, an analyst with Recon Analytics LLC. “It’s more of a muscle flexing for the next year or so. If it drags on, prices will go up.”

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China is the dominant global producer of both metals that have applications for electric vehicle makers, the defense industry and displays. Gallium and germanium play a role in producing a number of compound semiconductors, which combine multiple elements to improve transmission speed and efficiency. China accounts for about 94% of the world’s gallium production, according to the UK Critical Minerals Intelligence Centre.

Still, the metals aren’t particularly rare or difficult to find, though China’s kept them cheap and they can be relatively high-cost to extract. Both metals are byproducts from processing other commodities such as coal and bauxite, the base for aluminum production. With restricted supply, higher prices could draw out production from elsewhere.

“When they stop suppressing the price, it suddenly becomes more viable to extract these metals in the West, then China again has an own-goal,” said Christopher Ecclestone, principle at Hallgarten & Co. “For a short while they get a higher price, but then China’s market dominance gets lost - the same thing has happened before in other things like antimony, tungsten and rare earths.”

Other countries that produce gallium include Japan, South Korea, Russia and Ukraine, according to the CRU Group, a metals industry intelligence provider. Germanium is also produced in Canada, Belgium, the US and Russia.

Shares of companies that make compound semiconductors, such as Wolfspeed Inc. and NXP Semiconductors NV, were little changed or traded higher when US exchanges opened on Monday. A representative for Wolfspeed didn’t immediately respond to requests for comment. A spokesperson for NXP had no immediate comment.

China’s move comes after the US and its allies stepped up rhetoric against the country in recent weeks. US President Joe Biden’s administration is planning to block sales of some chips used to run artificial-intelligence programs, people familiar with the matter said last week. The Chinese government earlier this year banned US chipmaker Micron Technology Inc.’s products from some of its critical sectors after saying it found “relatively serious” risks in a cybersecurity review.

The Dutch government announced on Friday measures that will prevent ASML Holding NV — a company with a near-monopoly on the machines needed to make the most advanced semiconductors — from selling some of its machines to China.

— With assistance by Debby Wu, Thomas Seal, Clara Hernanz Lizarraga, Benoit Berthelot and Scott Moritz

Fareed Zakaria July 2, 2023
On Today's Show
On GPS, at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. ET:

https://view.newsletters.cnn.com/messages/16883011140384677f4d4f30b/raw?bt_ee=jn5sZk0VvVuaQwqXUdrz2D9gjsdOjUVctKehKDIwMhmDyhraCDiLk4TWgF%2BOUdFO&bt_ts=1688301114040

Russia faces significant problems, including the recent rebellion and its flagging war on neighboring Ukraine.

But the country has even bigger things to worry about, Fareed says, pointing to a surprisingly short life expectancy, underperformance in the global knowledge economy, and a government that is notoriously corrupt and anti-modern.

"What does this all add up to?" Fareed asks. "I am not sure. But it is fair to say that Russia's biggest problem is not that it is losing the Ukraine war, but rather that it is losing the 21st century."

After that: the fallout from last weekend's stunning armed mutiny in Russia. Fareed talks with two Russia experts: Nina Khrushcheva, the author, New School professor and great-granddaughter of Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev, and New Yorker editor David Remnick, a former Moscow correspondent for The Washington Post.

Who should foot the bill for climate change? Prime Minister of Barbados Mia Mottley has urged wealthy countries to pay up, after they burned fossil fuels on the way to economic growth, fomenting a climate crisis that now besets the developing world. Fareed asks Mottley why such spending is a moral necessity—and how to make that collective action happen.

Then: why many African countries have declined to officially take sides in Russia's war on Ukraine, how Kenya's democracy stabilized, and rising to the top and helping others—Fareed interviews Kenyan President William Ruto, who was sworn in last September.

Finally: As America marks the July 4 holiday, Fareed offers one thing he thinks can help the country's troubled democracy: restricting the massive amounts of political money that flood US elections.

Note to readers: The Global Briefing will be on hiatus Tuesday, July 4. We'll return to your inboxes the following day, Wednesday, July 5.

Facing a Cornered Putin

As Russian President Vladimir Putin's war effort sputtered last year, some sensed danger. "Mr. Putin cornered is Mr. Putin at his most dangerous," as The New York Times' Roger Cohen put it then. Mentions proliferated of Putin's childhood story about fleeing from a rat that "(s)uddenly ... lashed around and threw itself at" the young Putin when he cornered it, as Putin co-wrote in a 2000 autobiography.

Today, the Russian president is about as cornered as possible.

"In the aftermath of (Wagner private military group leader Yevgeny Prigozhin's) failed rebellion," Anna Arutunyan writes for the The Spectator, "there is a mix of frustration and relief in Moscow. So strong is the awareness of how bad things could become in the event of regime collapse that there is an inevitable desire to get back to business as usual. ... (W)hat this ... mutiny has shown is that Putin rules by fear. Fear of him, but especially fear of what would happen were he to lose control. And there is nothing more dangerous than a weak man with a big gun."

(*Continued On The Following Column)

In the West, observers see a mix of advantage and risk. A Bloomberg editorial advises on "how to deal with a wounded Putin": "So far, NATO has rightly stayed above the fray. Any attempt to influence Russia's internal politics at such a time is likely to be either ineffectual or counterproductive. Two more modest steps would help, however. One is to reiterate through all channels the importance of controlling nuclear devices and following established safety protocols. ... Next, the West should continue its support for Ukraine unabated. Any withdrawal of the battle-hardened Wagner troops from the fight ... will likely help Ukraine's forces, which are undertaking a grueling counteroffensive."

Where Does Belarus Fit In?

Just what role did Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko, a fellow autocrat and longtime Putin ally, play in defusing Prigozhin's mutiny? Lukashenko himself says he brokered the truce between Prigozhin and Putin that saw Wagner mercenaries halt their advance; Prigozhin depart for Belarus; and Putin offer Wagner fighters the choice to do the same, fight for Russia's regular army or go home.

Some observers are skeptical. "Lukashenko's version of events is certainly convenient but may not be entirely accurate," writes The Atlantic Council's Hanna Liubakova. "In reality, he is more likely to have served as a messenger for Putin. ... In all likelihood, Lukashenko probably had very little say in the decision to use Belarus as a place of exile for mutinous Wagner forces."

At The Jamestown Foundation, Yauheni Preiherman disagrees. "Using Lukashenko merely as cover in a pre-arranged scenario makes no sense for Moscow when ... in the end, both parties to the conflict look to have been weakened by it," Preiherman writes.

In a New York Times guest opinion essay, Thomas E. Graham of the Council on Foreign Relations sees Lukashenko playing for global attention. "Nothing, however, will change the reality," Graham writes. "Even in his fleeting moment of glory, Mr. Lukashenko cuts a pathetic figure as a Russian pawn. Perhaps the one worthy service he has performed for his country over the years is to briefly show how Belarus could position itself as a respectable player in European affairs, as a venue for constructive East-West dialogue with a dynamic tech sector. But Minsk can revive and sustain that role only under the leadership of a president who accepts European values. Mr. Lukashenko will never be that person."

G7 Statement of Support for Ukraine

Office of the Spokesperson

July 12, 2023

The text of the following statement was released by the G7 leaders of Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America.

Begin text:

We, the Leaders of the Group of Seven (G7), reaffirm our unwavering commitment to the strategic objective of a free, independent, democratic, and sovereign Ukraine, within its internationally recognized borders, capable of defending itself and deterring future aggression.

We affirm that the security of Ukraine is integral to the security of the Euro-Atlantic region.

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We consider Russia's illegal and unprovoked invasion of Ukraine to be a threat to international peace and security, a flagrant violation of international law, including the UN Charter, and incompatible with our security interests. We will stand with Ukraine as it defends itself against Russian aggression, for as long as it takes.

We stand united in our enduring support for Ukraine, rooted in our shared democratic values and interests, above all, respect for the UN Charter and the principles of territorial integrity and sovereignty.

Today we are launching negotiations with Ukraine to formalize — through bilateral security commitments and arrangements aligned with this multilateral framework, in accordance with our respective legal and constitutional requirements — our enduring support to Ukraine as it defends its sovereignty and territorial integrity, rebuilds its economy, protects its citizens, and pursues integration into the Euro-Atlantic community. We will direct our teams to begin these discussions immediately.

We will each work with Ukraine on specific, bilateral, long-term security commitments and arrangements towards:

a) Ensuring a sustainable force capable of defending Ukraine now and deterring Russian aggression in the future, through the continued provision of:

- security assistance and modern military equipment, across land, air, and sea domains — prioritizing air defense, artillery and long-range fires, armored vehicles, and other key capabilities, such as combat air, and by promoting increased interoperability with Euro-Atlantic partners;
- support to further develop Ukraine's defense industrial base;
- training and training exercises for Ukrainian forces;
- intelligence sharing and cooperation;
- support for cyber defense, security, and resilience initiatives, including to address hybrid threats.

b) Strengthening Ukraine's economic stability and resilience, including through reconstruction and recovery efforts, to create the conditions conducive to promoting Ukraine's economic prosperity, including its energy security.

c) Providing technical and financial support for Ukraine's immediate needs stemming from Russia's war as well as to enable Ukraine to continue implementing the effective reform agenda that will support the good governance necessary to advance towards its Euro-Atlantic aspirations.

In the event of future Russian armed attack, we intend to immediately consult with Ukraine to determine appropriate next steps. We intend, in accordance with our respective legal and constitutional requirements, to provide Ukraine with swift and sustained security assistance, modern military equipment across land, sea and air domains, and economic assistance, to impose economic and other costs on Russia, and to consult with Ukraine on its needs as it exercises its right of self-defense enshrined in Article 51 of the UN Charter. To this end, we will work with Ukraine on an enhanced package of security commitments and arrangements in case of future aggression to enable Ukraine to defend its territory and sovereignty.

In addition to the elements articulated above, we remain committed to supporting Ukraine by holding Russia accountable. This includes working to ensure that the costs to Russia of its aggression continue to rise, including through sanctions and export controls, as well as supporting efforts to hold to account those responsible for war crimes and other international crimes committed in and against Ukraine, including those involving attacks on critical civilian infrastructure. There must be no impunity for war crimes and other atrocities. In this context, we reiterate our commitment to holding those responsible to account, consistent with international law, including by supporting the efforts of international mechanisms, such as the International Criminal Court (ICC).

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We reaffirm that, consistent with our respective legal systems, Russia's sovereign assets in our jurisdictions will remain immobilized until Russia pays for the damage it has caused to Ukraine. We recognize the need for the establishment of an international mechanism for reparation of damages, loss or injury caused by Russian aggression and express our readiness to explore options for the development of appropriate mechanisms.

For its part, Ukraine is committed to:

a) Contributing positively to partner security and to strengthen transparency and accountability measures with regard to partner assistance;

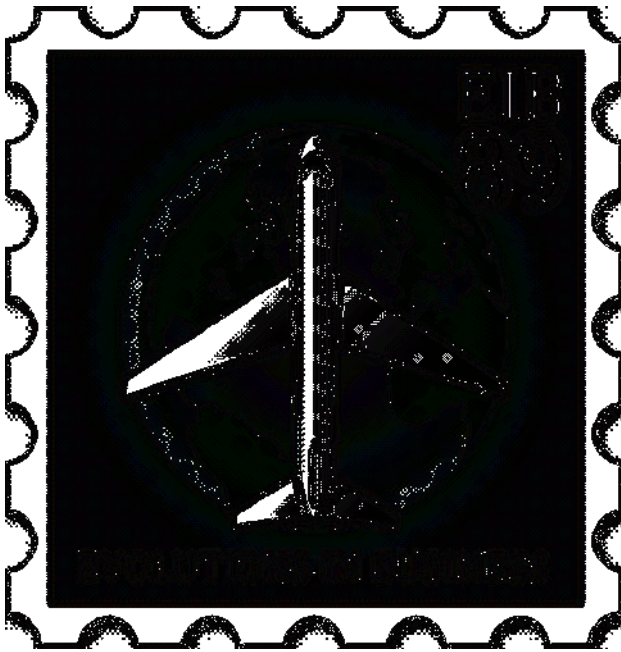
b) continuing implementation of the law enforcement, judiciary, anti-corruption, corporate governance, economic, security sector, and state management reforms that underscore its commitments to democracy, the rule of law, respect for human rights and media freedoms, and put its economy on a sustainable path;

c) Advancing defense reforms and modernization including by strengthening democratic civilian control of the military and improving efficiency and transparency across Ukraine's defense institutions and industry.

The EU and its Member States stand ready to contribute to this effort and will swiftly consider the modalities of such contribution.

This effort will be taken forward while Ukraine pursues a pathway toward future membership in the Euro-Atlantic community.

Other countries that wish to contribute to this effort to ensure a free, strong, independent, and sovereign Ukraine may join this Joint Declaration at any time.



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