



## Situation Room

### **\*\* UKRAINE CRISIS \*\***

**Period under review:** from **08 March 2022** to **10 March 2022**.

[This report is based on publicly available sources to describe a changing situation. Information subject to change.]

### **Situation analysis recap:**

- On 8 March, Moscow confirmed the opening of humanitarian corridors for the evacuation of civilians. A ceasefire was declared in the cities of Kyiv, Kharkiv, Mariupol, Sumi and Chernigov at 10 AM, which, according to Ukrainian government authorities, was violated shortly afterwards by Russian troops, who continued shelling and bombarding Ukrainian residents. NATO Secretary General, Jens Stoltenberg, called Russia's shelling of civilians a war crime and said that Ukraine needs "genuine humanitarian corridors". On the same day, US President Joe Biden, said that the US and its allies had taken the decision to ban imports of Russian energy products, but stressed that he understood that some European countries would not be able to take the same step because of their dependence on Russian oil. European Commission also presented a roadmap to end Europe's dependence on Russian gas, oil, and coal by 2030 at the latest. On the same day, Russia warned that oil prices could rise to \$300 a barrel and that it could shut down the main gas pipeline to Germany, Nord Stream 1, if the West stopped importing Russian oil. The EU imports 40% of its gas and 30% of its oil from Russia.
- Despite assurances of a ceasefire, Russia continued shelling and bombing Ukrainian towns on 9 March, at a time when civilian evacuations through humanitarian corridors were scheduled. In Mariupol, one of the most besieged cities since the start of the invasion, a maternity hospital was hit by an air strike. British Prime Minister, Boris Johnson, strongly condemned the attack, but promised to hold Russian President, Vladimir Putin, fully accountable for the horrific act.
- On 9 March in Brussels, EU Member States agreed to extend the list of Russian executives and oligarchs sanctioned for any involvement in Russia's aggression in Ukraine. Three Belarusian banks will also be excluded from the SWIFT international banking system. The three packages of measures against Russia so far are the toughest sanctions in the EU's history.
- According to the Ukrainian army, by 9 March, around 14.500 people arrived in Ukraine from abroad to fight against Russia. Ukrainian President, Volodymyr Zelensky, had already called for foreign military-trained citizens to come and fight against Russia at the beginning of the invasion, while also forming a kind of "international legion" in Ukraine. On the same day, the Kremlin warned that Poland's offer of military aircraft for Ukraine could lead to an extremely dangerous scenario. The previous day, Poland had proposed to hand over its Mig-29 fighter jets to Ukraine in exchange for US F-16s, apparently without prior consultation with the US. The Pentagon subsequently announced that such a proposal was unacceptable, but warned that such a move posed serious concerns for NATO. President Zelenski nevertheless continues to call on the West to send aircraft to Ukraine as soon as possible.
- On 10 March, the Ukrainian city of Mariupol again came under heavy Russian shelling. Russian troops have blocked humanitarian corridors out of the city, causing a large number of deaths, including civilian casualties. Since the start of the Russian invasion, more than 1300 civilians have reportedly been killed in Mariupol.
- On 10 March, Russian Foreign Minister, Sergei Lavrov, and Ukrainian Foreign Minister, Dmytro Kuleba, met in Turkey. This was the first high-level contact between Kyiv and Moscow since the start of the Russian attack. The meeting did not bring about the desired changes and ended without progress on the ceasefire. During the negotiations, Mr Kuleba said that the biggest problem facing Ukraine at the moment is the situation in Mariupol, which has been under intense shelling and bombardment by Russian forces. Despite the setbacks, Mr Kuleba expressed his willingness to continue negotiations.

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On the same day, Lithuania announced that it would extend the state of emergency it imposed at the start of the Russian attack until 21 April. Lithuania borders Russia to the east and, being aware of the potential Russian military threat, is reinforcing its arsenal with missiles to be purchased from the US.

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Analysis by: **Žiga Štucin**

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