



Situation Room

**** UKRAINIAN CRISIS ****

Period under review: from 1 April 2025 to 30 April 2025.

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

Situation analysis recap:

(1 April) Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov stated that Moscow and Washington have not managed to bring their positions closer so far. According to a report from Reuters, US President Donald Trump is becoming increasingly impatient due to the potential delay in the peace agreement. Ryabkov emphasised that they take the proposals and solutions from the American side seriously, but they cannot accept all the proposals in their current form.

(4 April) US Secretary of State Marco Rubio stated that the end of the war depends on Putin and Russia. Senior NATO officials told the BBC that there were no indications from Putin that a quick ceasefire or truce would be possible. Nevertheless, Rubio remains optimistic.

(5 April) European partners of Ukraine continued preliminary technical negotiations regarding a potential contingent of European peacekeeping forces. British and French delegations met with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky and Ukrainian military representatives between April 4th and 5th to discuss the possibility of deploying the first partner peacekeeping forces. Zelensky emphasized the need to clarify operational rules for any potential deployed forces. NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte suggested considering a delay in deploying such forces until a potential peace agreement is adopted.

(6 April) The intensity of Russian attacks in Ukraine has steadily decreased since November 2024, partly due to the success of Ukrainian counteroffensives in eastern Ukraine. Despite this, the UK Ministry of Defence assessed on April 5th that Russian forces advanced or captured 143 square kilometres of Ukrainian territory in March. Meanwhile, Ukrainian forces successfully carried out a tactical counteroffensive towards Pokrovsk.

(7 April) French President Emmanuel Macron called for a strong response if Russia continues to reject peace negotiations. Despite efforts by the United States and Europe to secure a ceasefire and peace in Ukraine, Macron emphasised that the Russians continue the war and attacks on the civilian population.

(16 April) White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt emphasised that President Trump has made it clear that an 'American-Russian partnership' could incentivise the Russian side to engage more swiftly in negotiations and bring the war to an end. It was stressed that the United States must first see a temporary or permanent ceasefire or an end to the war. The Russian and Ukrainian sides continue to blame each other for not cooperating in the peace process and introducing new demands.

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(17 April) The French President hosted US Secretary of State Rubio and President Trump's envoy for Ukraine, Steve Witkoff, at the Élysée Palace. The talks were the first substantive high-level discussions that included European countries.

(19 April) US Secretary of State Rubio announced that the US would withdraw from the negotiations to end the war if no significant progress is made soon.

(20 April) Russian President Vladimir Putin announced an unannounced one-day Easter ceasefire. Putin's unilateral 30-hour truce comes after Washington presented the possibility of withdrawing from peace negotiations.

(20 April) Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky accused Russia of attempting to create the illusion of a ceasefire while military actions continue; according to the President, since the beginning of the Easter truce, there have been 19 attacks, 290 drone strikes, and 387 shelling's.

(22 April) In a comment to the Interfax agency, Putin's spokesman Dmitry Peskov stated that there is a possibility of bilateral negotiations on the non-attacking of civilian targets. In a public address, President Zelensky said he needs a clear answer from Moscow on whether this includes the entire civilian infrastructure.

(23 April) Senior diplomatic representatives of the United Kingdom, the United States, France, Germany, and Ukraine have postponed the ministerial-level meeting scheduled for 23 April, regarding talks to end the war in Ukraine. The postponement of the meeting by one day, at the level of senior foreign ministry officials, resulted from a conversation between British Foreign Secretary David Lammy and US Secretary of State Marco Rubio, who stated that he would not be attending the ministerial-level meeting.

(26 April) In a statement to the media, the President Trump dismissed his campaign promise to end the war within the first 100 days. On 25 April, Trump told reporters that the US no longer has a set deadline for ending the war. Trump stated that, based on Putin's recent actions, it is clear that Putin has no intention of ending the conflict.

(28 April) North Korea has, for the first time, officially confirmed the presence of its soldiers in the Russia-Ukraine war. The state agency KCNA confirmed the participation of troops in combat in Russia's Kursk region.

(28 April) Trump stated that his meeting with Ukrainian President Zelensky at Pope Francis's funeral in the Vatican went well, and the discussion also touched on the Crimean Peninsula. Ukraine rejected Trump's proposals regarding the surrender of Ukrainian territory. The Ukrainian side emphasised that talks about territory can only begin once a ceasefire is in place. Neither Zelensky nor Putin have commented on President Trump's recent remarks. This was the first public discussion between Trump and Zelensky following the tense meeting at the White House.

(30 April) Ukrainian Foreign Minister Andriy Sybiha wrote on the platform 'X' that Ukraine is ready for peace talks as soon as Moscow shows a genuine willingness to 'take the difficult path to peace.' According to Sybiha, Russia must stop talking about its readiness for peace and start taking serious action by unconditionally agreeing to a real ceasefire.

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