



Situation Room

**** UKRAINIAN CRISIS ****

Period under review: from 1 August 2025 to 31 August 2025.

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

Situation analysis recap:

- **(1 August)** US President Donald Trump ordered the deployment of two nuclear submarines closer to Russia, describing it as a response to the reckless and provocative statements of Russian Security Council Deputy Chairman Dmitry Medvedev. Trump confirmed that sanctions against Russia would be imposed if a ceasefire in Ukraine is not achieved by 8 August. Russian President Vladimir Putin rejected the deadline, stating that peace requires detailed negotiations rather than public announcements.
- **(2 August)** Indian oil refineries continue to import Russian crude oil despite sanctions imposed by the European Union and the US, as well as the 25% tariffs introduced by President Trump. Sources from the Indian government told Reuters that they will continue purchases due to long-term contracts that prevent an immediate halt in imports.
- **(3 August)** Ukrainian anti-corruption agencies have uncovered a large corruption scheme involving inflated contracts for the procurement of military equipment, including drones. The suspects are believed to have received up to 30% of the contract value as bribes.
- **(4 August)** In light of President Trump's threats to move nuclear submarines closer to Russia, the Kremlin sought to ease tensions. Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov stated that these are very emotional issues and that everyone should be very careful. Despite Trump setting a deadline for Moscow to implement a ceasefire in Ukraine, Peskov emphasised that relations between the two countries remain open.
- **(5 August)** Russia announced that it will formally withdraw from the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty. This move, which the Kremlin justifies as a response to the US deployment of nuclear submarines against Russia, essentially formalises the existing situation, as Russia has long violated the treaty through the development and deployment of long-range missiles. Its withdrawal, accompanied by strong rhetoric, is aimed at shaping public perception by portraying it as a response to provocations by Western countries.
- **(6 August)** US envoy for Ukraine, Steve Witkoff, met with Vladimir Putin in Moscow for three-hour talks on the war in Ukraine, which the Kremlin described as useful and constructive, and Donald Trump called a major step forward. Trump announced the possibility of meetings with both Putin and Zelensky as early as the following week, while warning the Kremlin that tariffs and sanctions would be imposed if a ceasefire agreement is not reached by Friday, 8 August.
- **(7 August)** The Kremlin confirmed that Presidents Donald Trump and Vladimir Putin will meet in the coming days for a bilateral meeting, which the US linked to a call for a ceasefire in Ukraine. The date and location remained confidential, and the possibility of including President Volodymyr Zelensky remained uncertain. The meeting would mark the first personal summit between the US and Russian presidents in over four years and represent a diplomatic success for Putin.
- **(9 August)** President Donald Trump wrote on his platform 'Truth Social' that the meeting between the him. and the Russian president would take place on 15 August in Alaska. Trump stated that a ceasefire between Russia and Ukraine is inevitable. The Kremlin also confirmed the meeting, noting that it considers it meaningful.
- **(12 August)** European leaders, except the Hungarian Prime Minister, sent a strong message in a joint statement ahead of the key summit in Alaska between the US and Russian presidents. The aim was to present a unified stance of the Union regarding the future of Ukrainian sovereignty.

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- **(13 August)** Vladimir Putin, in talks with North Korean leader Kim Jong-un, expressed readiness to further strengthen relations and praised North Korea's military support. The event coincided with new Russian military movements, while North Korean workers in Russia continue to face harsh conditions.
- **(16 August)** The summit between US President Donald Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin in Alaska ended without a ceasefire agreement in Ukraine. Putin reiterated that lasting peace requires addressing the underlying causes of the conflict, citing NATO expansion and the alleged violation of Russian security interests in an interview with DW. Trump stated that progress was made, but provided no details. During the summit, Russian attacks on Ukraine continued, indicating no immediate impact on the ground.
- **(16 August)** The Alaska summit strengthened Russia's diplomatic position, as Putin received a warm reception, while Trump hinted at a shift toward a peace agreement aligned with Kremlin positions. No agreements on halting hostilities were reached, and Russian forces continue their offensive in the Donbas and elsewhere. Experts noted that the meeting signals pressure on Ukraine to negotiate rather than on Moscow to withdraw.
- **(17 August)** European and NATO leaders announced their presence and support for Ukrainian President Zelensky prior and during his meeting with US President Donald Trump. This move can be understood as a geostrategic message to Moscow and the broader international community that support for Ukraine remains collective and institutionally anchored, regardless of domestic political changes.
- **(19 August)** The Swiss government announced on Tuesday that it would grant President Vladimir Putin immunity from arrest should he participate in peace negotiations with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky in Switzerland.
- **(20 August)** German Foreign Minister Johann Wadephul, during a visit to Japan, sharply criticised China for providing key support to Russia in the war against Ukraine. Wadephul accused China of undermining the principles it publicly advocates, such as non-interference and territorial integrity.
- **(21 August)** Italian authorities arrested a Ukrainian citizen suspected of involvement in the 2022 Nord Stream pipeline attack. According to German authorities, he was part of a group that placed explosives near the Danish coast using a yacht. German Justice Minister Stefanie Hubig emphasised that Germany will thoroughly investigate the incident, regardless of support for Ukraine.
- **(22 August)** Estonian Prime Minister Kristen Michal announced that Estonia is prepared to participate in a peacekeeping operation in Ukraine with a unit up to company size. The announcement was made at a press conference in Tallinn.
- **(23 August)** Following the Alaska summit, President Putin continued efforts to warm and deepen bilateral relations with the US, without engaging in the peace process in Ukraine. Putin stated that Trump's assumption of the presidency represents a "light at the end of the tunnel" for US-Russia relations.
- **(25 August)** Polish President Karol Nawrocki vetoed a bill designed to extend social assistance for Ukrainian refugees. The proposed legislation, which would have extended aid beyond 30 September, also included funding for approximately 25,000 Starlink terminals that Poland has been providing since the start of the invasion in 2022.
- **(26 August)** The Ukrainian government, led by Prime Minister Yulia Svyrydenko, implemented an amendment to the military law concerning border crossing. Under the government decree, male citizens aged 18–22 are now allowed to travel freely across borders, regardless of the state of martial law.
- **(27 August)** Russia revised its economic growth forecast for the coming year, signalling a slowdown in the war economy. Finance Minister Anton Siluanov told President Putin that they now expect 1.5% growth, significantly lower than the previous forecast of 2.5%.
- **(28 August)** Russian forces carried out an airstrike on Kyiv, killing at least 18 people, marking the deadliest attack on the Ukrainian capital since the Alaska summit between Putin and Trump. The strike hit a five-story residential building in the Darnytskyi district, killing 17 people, including four children.

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- **(29 August)** China received its first shipment of liquefied natural gas (LNG) from the sanctioned Russian Arctic LNG 2 project this week, just ahead of a meeting between President Vladimir Putin and Chinese President Xi Jinping at the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation summit in Tianjin. The event strengthens trade ties between the two countries and highlights Russia's efforts at diplomacy despite Western sanctions over the war in Ukraine.
- **(30 August)** EU foreign ministers met in Copenhagen for an informal session to discuss continued support for Ukraine and increasing pressure on Russia, including stricter sanctions and the use of frozen Russian assets. Danish Foreign Minister Lars Løkke Rasmussen called for a shift from words to actions, proposing strengthened sanctions and the establishment of Ukrainian defence manufacturing facilities in Europe. Leading diplomats, including Kaja Kallas and Ruben Brekelmans, emphasised the need for continued military support to Kyiv, while also criticising Hungary for obstructing European and US efforts toward peace.
- **(31 August)** Chief of the Russian General Staff, General Valery Gerasimov, announced an autumn offensive in Ukraine, stressing that the initiative on the front lines is with Russia. Moscow claims to control nearly all of Luhansk and large parts of Donetsk, Kherson, and Zaporizhzhia, while expanding offensives toward Sumy, Kharkiv, and Dnipropetrovsk.
- **(31 August)** The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation 2025 Summit began in Tianjin, China. Russian president Putin and North Korean leader Kim Jong-un will both attend, along with around 20 other world leaders. The Summit is a chance for China to strengthen its diplomatic position. China will also organise a large military parade during the Summit to showcase its military capabilities.

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