



Situation Room

**** UKRAINIAN CRISIS ****

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

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

Situation analysis recap:

(1 October) France enacted a temporary seizure of the tanker Boracay, purportedly affiliated with Russia's so-called "shadow fleet", which serves to circumvent sanctions and underpin the financing of military operations. President Emmanuel Macron framed the measure as an integral component of a renewed European strategy to intensify pressure on Russia. The action highlights the increasing regulatory scrutiny of vessels involved in illicit oil exports, situated within the broader context of persistent hybrid activities.

(2 October) Russian President Vladimir Putin announced a strong response to what he called the militarisation of Europe and dismissed concerns of an attack on NATO as absurd. He cautioned that Moscow would not exhibit weakness and expressed apprehension regarding Germany's military ambitions. Additionally, he conveyed commendation for President Trump and issued a warning to Kyiv against attacks near the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant, intimating potential retaliatory measures.

(3 October) Russia conducts weekly attempts to disrupt and collect intelligence from British military satellites, as corroborated by General Paul Tedman, Commander of UK Space Command. The intensified tracking and terrestrial jamming, which have escalated since the invasion of Ukraine, reflect an expansion of hybrid operations into the space domain. The United Kingdom is developing protective systems, yet it acknowledges that it lags behind the United States and France in this regard.

(5 October) President Putin cautioned that the provision of American Tomahawk missiles to Ukraine, intended for strikes deep within Russian territory, would irrevocably damage Moscow's relations with Washington, thereby jeopardising any nascent positive trends in bilateral engagement. His remarks follow reports that the United States is deliberating Ukraine's request for Tomahawk missiles capable of reaching Moscow, signalling potential escalation in the strategic calculus of the region.

(6 October) Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky has revealed that Russian missiles and drones incorporate over 100,000 foreign components, including British microprocessors. He has called for stricter sanctions against Russia, noting that the parts also include critical elements sourced from the United States, Germany, and Japan. In response, Western states have announced enhanced controls over the export of dual-use military technology, signalling a concerted effort to curb Russia's access to strategic hardware.

(7 October) Belarusian oil exports to Russia via rail surged fourfold in September, as Moscow seeks to mitigate fuel shortages. These deficits have been driven by Ukrainian drone attacks on Russian energy infrastructure,

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including refineries. Consequently, several Russian regions have been compelled to implement restrictions and temporarily freeze fuel prices, reflecting the operational and economic pressures on the domestic energy sector.

(8 October) Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov stated in an address to the Russian Federal Assembly that the strong impetus generated by the Putin-Trump meeting in Anchorage in favour of the agreements has been largely undermined.

(9 October) President Zelensky reported that Ukrainian strikes employing new missiles have resulted in an approximately 20 per cent reduction in Russian fuel reserves, prompting Moscow to increase imports from Belarus and China. Concurrently, he called upon the United States to supply Tomahawk missiles and emphasised the progress of the Ukrainian counteroffensive in the Donetsk region.

(10 October) At the summit in Tajikistan, Vladimir Putin stated that Russia is developing a new strategic weapon and that the arms race is already underway. He emphasised that Moscow would not face serious repercussions should the United States choose not to extend the treaty limiting nuclear warheads (New START), which is set to expire next year.

(12 October) For months, the United States has been assisting Ukraine in conducting strikes on Russian energy infrastructure using drones and long-range missiles, which officials describe as a coordinated effort to weaken Russia's economy and compel Vladimir Putin to negotiate. According to multiple Ukrainian and American officials familiar with the campaign, US intelligence has enabled Ukraine to target critical Russian energy assets, including oil refineries, well beyond the front lines.

(13 October) The European Union announced the establishment of a special tribunal to prosecute Russian leaders for the crime of aggression against Ukraine, providing an initial funding allocation of €10 million. In Kyiv, EU High Representative Kaja Kallas emphasised the importance of accountability for lasting peace. The decision coincides with renewed Russian attacks on Ukraine's energy infrastructure.

(14 October) European Commissioner for the Economy, Valdis Dombrovskis, has warned that Russia's war in Ukraine is detrimental to American companies with substantial interests in Europe. He highlighted that US assets in Europe are valued at \$19.2 billion and stressed that Putin's aggression generates profound uncertainty, directly impacting corporate profits. The EU's objective is to encourage the United States to intensify pressure on Russia and align sanctions with the eighteen packages already implemented by the European Union.

(15 October) NATO defence ministers reconvened following the summit in The Hague to address recent airspace violations. They agreed to strengthen deterrence measures and introduce new counter-drone initiatives under Operation Eastern Sentry. The ministers also reaffirmed their enduring support for Ukraine amid ongoing Russian attacks on civilian infrastructure.

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(18 October) Following a meeting at the White House, President Zelensky departed without a firm assurance that Tomahawk missiles would be supplied. US President Donald Trump stated that the United States requires weapons for its own defence and is reluctant to take actions that might precipitate escalation. Zelensky maintained that Tomahawks would significantly impair Russia's oil industry, while Trump persisted in urging a ceasefire along the current front line.

(20 October) Ukrainian Foreign Minister Andriy Sibiha has revealed that Russia's 2026 budget plans a 54 per cent increase in funding for propaganda, with a particular focus on state television.

(21 October) The planned summit in Budapest between Donald Trump and Vladimir Putin was cancelled after diplomatic efforts to end the war in Ukraine proved unsuccessful. The White House announced that no meetings are currently scheduled. Trump rejected Putin's proposal for a compromise involving a partial territorial exchange in Ukraine.

(22 October) The Ukrainian President has signed a letter of intent with the Swedish Prime Minister to acquire 150 Saab Gripen aircraft, which could modernise Ukraine's air force in the coming years. The whole agreement is expected to be implemented over a period of 10 to 15 years. Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson stated that the first aircraft would be delivered to Ukraine within three years.

(23 October) The US administration has imposed extensive sanctions on Russian energy companies Rosneft and Lukoil, aiming to curb Russia's revenues and compel the Kremlin to engage in peace negotiations. Announced by Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent, the sanctions follow Russian air strikes on Ukrainian cities, including a kindergarten in Kharkiv.

(24 October) Ahead of his meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping, as part of his Asian tour, President Trump expressed hope that China would exert influence on Russia and encourage peace negotiations with Ukraine. Despite previous unsuccessful diplomatic efforts and the imposition of sanctions on Russian oil companies, Trump continues to pursue diplomatic solutions to the conflict.

(24 October) Special Envoy to the Russian President, Kirill Dmitriev, visited the United States for official talks with the Trump administration, focusing on US-Russia relations and seeking a resolution to the war in Ukraine. Among other engagements, he met with his American counterpart, Steve Witkoff, just days after the Trump-Putin summit was cancelled.

(26 October) The Kremlin has announced that Russia successfully tested the Burevestnik nuclear-powered cruise missile (referred to as "Skyfall" in NATO terminology), which Moscow claims travelled 14,000 kilometres and remained airborne for approximately 15 hours. According to the Chief of the Russian General Staff, General Valery Gerasimov, the missile, powered by a miniature nuclear reactor, possesses unlimited range and can evade air defence systems. President Putin described the weapon as unique and unstoppable, despite long-standing Western scepticism regarding the feasibility of the project, which Russia first unveiled in 2018.

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(26 October) Slovak Prime Minister Robert Fico announced that his government will not contribute to European military support programmes for Ukraine, although it permits commercial arms exports. Fico opposed financial involvement in the conflict, arguing that the war cannot be resolved on the battlefield, a stance that contrasts with the prevailing EU strategy for aiding Ukraine.

(28 October) In his latest statement, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky emphasised that Pokrovsk has become a focal point of Russian military operations in the Donetsk region. The city, regarded as a key logistical hub and the so-called “gateway to Donetsk”, remains the scene of intense fighting, as Russian units attempt to disperse Ukrainian defences and sever land-based supply routes.

(28 October) At the Security Forum in Minsk, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov stated that Russia is prepared to offer non-aggression guarantees to NATO and EU member states, insisting that Moscow has no intention of attacking any country. He once again accused the West of prolonging the war in Ukraine and emphasised that EU states had rejected what he described as “genuine collective security guarantees.”

(29 October) The European Parliament is debating a proposal to block access to Russian media websites such as RT and Sputnik on its networks and devices. The initiative was introduced by Latvian MEP Rihards Kols as a measure to strengthen information security. Parliament President Roberta Metsola will examine the legal and technical feasibility of the proposal and consult with relevant institutions.

(30 October) Russian attacks on Pokrovsk have exposed a severe manpower crisis within the Ukrainian armed forces. President Volodymyr Zelensky has warned that units are significantly understrength, with an estimated force ratio of eight to one in favour of Russia. After three years of war, losses, fatigue, and desertion are undermining defensive effectiveness, while the army has resorted to forced mobilisation to sustain its ranks.

(31 October) The United States has cancelled the planned summit between Presidents Donald Trump and Vladimir Putin in Budapest after Moscow sent Washington a memorandum containing uncompromising demands concerning Ukraine, according to the Financial Times. The decision followed a tense exchange between Foreign Ministers Sergei Lavrov and Marco Rubio, after which Rubio informed Trump that Russia had shown no willingness to engage in negotiations.

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