

UPDATED 15 HOURS AGO

Ukraine diplomacy as it happened: US drives Ukraine war measure through UN with Russian backing

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Edited by

Alexandra White, Zehra Munir, Peter Wells

EDITOR'S PICK 15 hours ago

Felicia Schwartz in Washington

US drives Ukraine war measure through UN with Russian backing

A US resolution calling for a “swift end” to the war in Ukraine passed the UN Security Council with the backing of Moscow and Beijing in a vote that dealt the latest blow to western unity under Donald Trump’s presidency.

The passage of the resolution, which was backed by China and Russia, laid bare splits between the US and some of its closest allies.

France and the UK did not veto the measure, but they abstained from voting on it, after failing in a last-ditch effort to delay the final vote.

The passage of the US measure marked a turning point for the UN's long-held stance on the war. Since 2022, the body has backed Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity, while noting Moscow's aggression.

It has also called for Russian forces to immediately withdraw from Ukraine.

However, the final US resolution passed on Monday did not include language to this effect, despite efforts by France, the UK, Denmark and Slovenia to include it.

Russia also suggested language to bring the measure more in line with its views of the conflict, though its efforts failed as well.

“This resolution puts us on the path to peace. It is a first step, but a crucial one, one of which we should all be proud,” the US's UN representative Dorothy Shea said. “Now we must use it to build a peaceful future for Ukraine, Russia and the international community.”

France's representative Nicolas de Rivière, explaining his decision to abstain, said: “There will be no peace and security anywhere if aggressions are rewarded, and if the law of the jungle wins.”

Read more [here](#)



15 hours ago

Felicia Schwartz in Washington

France and UK fail to delay vote on UN Security Council resolution

France and the UK failed to delay a vote on a UN Security Council resolution calling for a swift end to the war between Russia and Ukraine but not faulting Moscow for its aggression.

The close US allies said the resolution was hastily introduced on Friday night and they needed more time to consult on the measure. The US said there was sufficient time to debate the measure, and that “we do not have another day to spare”.

The move was the latest sign of the divisions between the US and its closest partners at the UN and comes ahead of a vote on its short proposal.



16 hours ago

Christopher Miller in Kyiv

Ukraine praises UN General Assembly resolution

Ukraine’s foreign minister Andriy Sybiha praised the 93 UN member states that voted in favour of a Kyiv-backed resolution that passed the United Nations General Assembly, which condemned Russia.

“Sometimes it is not easy to fight for the truth. But in the end, it is the truth that makes history,” Sybiha said.

He added: “Ukraine and the wider international community will also undoubtedly notice the company that ended up voting against this document.”

The US and Russia were among 18 nations that voted against the resolution, which passed the UN General Assembly on Monday. The measure passed hours before a US resolution calling for a “swift” end to the war in Ukraine, without faulting Russia, passed the UN Security Council.



16 hours ago

Leila Abboud in Paris and Felicia Schwartz in Washington

Macron presses Trump to pledge military ‘back-up’ for Europe

Emmanuel Macron pressed Donald Trump to pledge military “back-up” for European troops that could be deployed as peacekeepers to Ukraine if a ceasefire was reached.

Speaking during a press conference at the White House, France’s president said Trump had agreed to play such a role, but the US leader sidestepped the issue in his own remarks.

“There are Europeans that are ready to engage to provide for these security guarantees,” Macron said, including troop deployment. “And now there’s a clear American message that the US as an ally is ready to provide that solidarity for that approach. That is a turning point in my view.”

Yet earlier in the day, when Trump was asked if European troops would have US support, he brushed aside the question.

“We will have a backing of some kind,” Trump said. “Obviously European countries are going to be involved. I don’t think you’re going to need much backing. I think it’s not going to be a problem. Once an agreement is signed Russia will get back to its business and Ukraine and Europe will get back to their business.”

Donald Trump gives a press conference on a Ukraine peace deal with Emmanuel Macron © White House



16 hours ago

James Politi in Washington

Trump says 25% tariffs on Canada and Mexico going ahead ‘on schedule’

Donald Trump said 25 per cent tariffs on Canada and Mexico would be going ahead next week as planned.

“Tariffs are going forward on time, on schedule,” Trump said about the planned levies on imports from the US’s neighbours.

“This is an abuse that took place for many, many years. And I’m not even blaming the other countries that did this. I blame our leadership for allowing it to happen,” Trump said.



16 hours ago

Alexandra White in New York

Macron says Trump has a ‘good reason’ to re-engage with Putin

French President Emmanuel Macron said new leadership in the White House had created an opportunity for Washington’s re-engagement with Russian President Vladimir Putin.

“There is a new US administration. So this is a new context,” Macron said during a press conference with Donald Trump at the White House. “There is a good reason for President Trump to re-engage with President Putin.”

He stressed the need to build sufficient guarantees and said that in 2014 the negotiated peace deal with Putin lacked security guarantees and, as a result, Putin “violated this peace”.

“This is why being strong and having deterrence capacities is the only way to be sure it should be respected,” Macron said. “We do need this American back-up because this is part of the credibility of the security guarantees, and this is our collective deterrence capacity.”



16 hours ago

Zehra Munir in New York

Macron says Europe ‘well aware’ it must do more for own defence and security

France’s President Emmanuel Macron said he and US President Donald Trump talked on Monday about increasing Europe’s responsibility for its own defence, a “shared desire” to “build peace” in Ukraine, and limiting Iran’s ballistic capabilities, among other subjects.

Europeans are “well aware” that they “need to do more for security in Europe, for defence in Europe, and to more fairly share the security burden that your country [the US] has been carrying for so many years”, Macron said during a joint press conference held at the White House.

The French leader referred to Russia’s war in Ukraine as an “existential issue” for Europeans, but emphasised a “shared desire” with the US to “build peace” there.

Macron said he and Trump “don’t want to see Iran obtain nuclear weapons” and had spoken about that, as well as other potentially destabilising changes in the Middle East.



16 hours ago

Max Seddon in Berlin

Putin says Russia prepared to offer US ‘co-operation’ on critical minerals

Vladimir Putin said US President Donald Trump is trying to “create conditions for the Ukrainian state to survive” by pushing Kyiv to hold elections three years into Russia’s invasion of the country.

Putin, Russia’s president, said an election was “in the interests of Ukraine and the Ukrainian state to keep Ukrainian statehood,” according to state media.

Trump’s proposal for the US and Russia to cut their military budgets in half was a “good idea,” Putin added.

Putin also said Russia was prepared to offer the US “co-operation” on extracting rare earth metals from occupied areas of Ukraine amid tense negotiations with Kyiv on a similar \$500bn for the country’s natural resources, as well as supplying 2mn tonnes of aluminium to the US market.



17 hours ago

Watch live: Trump and Macron hold joint

press conference



LIVE OPINION 17 hours ago

Ben Hall

Trump administration has become an antagonist for Ukraine and European allies

The US siding with Russia to try to block a European motion on Ukraine at the UN General Assembly is another shocking example of how Donald Trump has turned the tables on America's erstwhile allies.

Can anyone still pretend that this might be a negotiating tactic by the White House to win Moscow's goodwill before trying to extract concessions in forthcoming Ukraine peace talks? Those European leaders who maintain that Trump will still stand up to Russia's Vladimir Putin for fear of looking weak are naive if not deluded. Washington is more and more aligned with the Kremlin's interests.

By blaming Ukraine for starting the war, calling the democratically elected President Volodymyr Zelenskyy a dictator and describing Russia as less of a threat to Europe than alleged curtailments of freedom of speech, the Trump administration has inverted the truth and turned itself into an antagonist if not adversary for Ukraine and its European partners.



17 hours ago

Adam Samson in New York, Henry Foy in Brussels and Felicia Schwartz in Washington

Donald Trump says US open to forging 'economic' deals with Russia

Donald Trump signalled the US is prepared to forge an “economic” deal with Russia amid a sharp reversal of Washington’s policy towards Moscow, saying the two countries had held “very good talks” over ending the war in Ukraine.

The US president’s comments, made while sitting alongside his French counterpart Emmanuel Macron in the Oval Office, came on the third anniversary of the start of a conflict in which the US has used escalating sanctions to hamper President Vladimir Putin’s war machine.

“A lot of progress has been made. We’ve had some very good talks with Russia,” Trump said. “Just as we’re doing with Ukraine, we could do some economic development in terms of Russia and getting things that we want.”

Earlier this month, the US president blindsided European capitals by pushing for a rapid peace deal through bilateral talks with Moscow.

In a press conference following their meeting, Macron said that Trump has “good reason” to re-engage with Putin over the conflict, adding that Europeans are “well aware” that they need to do more to bolster European security.

But he also repeatedly called for US security guarantees for Ukraine to be part of any peace deal.

Earlier on Monday, the UN General Assembly passed a resolution condemning Russia for its invasion of Ukraine, despite the US voting against it and urging other states to do so.

In a further diplomatic setback to the Trump administration, its own resolution tabled in opposition to the Ukrainian text, backing Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity, was only passed after it was amended to include a reference to Russia's invasion.

The US ultimately abstained in the final vote on its own resolution.

Trump said that Putin would not object to a European peacekeeping force in Ukraine after the conclusion of hostilities. "He has no problem with it," Trump said.

Macron said: "Europeans are ready to support Ukraine in various ways, supporting its military, and are ready to be present to make sure the peace lasts."



17 hours ago

Macron spars with Trump over Ukraine funding



17 hours ago

Paola Tamma and Henry Foy in Brussels and George Parker and Sam Fleming in London

EU and UK in talks about Europe-wide defence funding amid fear of US pullback

Britain will this week join EU leaders in groundbreaking talks about setting up Europe-wide defence funding arrangements, as the continent struggles to build up its military amid fears of a disappearing US security blanket.

UK chancellor Rachel Reeves will hold talks with other European finance ministers at a G20 meeting in Cape Town this week, as the war in Ukraine enters its fourth year.

“It could be a fund or a bank,” said Poland’s finance minister Andrzej Domański. “For example, there is the concept of the Rearmament Bank, which we are also considering.”

Domański told the Financial Times that discussions had been taking place with the UK for months, adding: “Without Great Britain, the defence of Europe is difficult to imagine.”

Read more [here](#)



17 hours ago

Peter Wells in New York and Leila Abboud in Paris

Trump and Macron signal openness to

peacekeeping role for European troops

Donald Trump and Emmanuel Macron signalled their openness to European troops taking on the role of peacemakers in Ukraine once the country's war with Russia is concluded.

Trump, asked by reporters for his view on European troops taking up that position, said: "They can watch to make sure everything is done properly . . . I don't think that's going to be a problem."

Macron said it was important that the powers involved build lasting peace and that countries had "seen the US re-engagement and the message that that sends to Mr Putin".

He said France had been "working closely" with the UK this week and had been sharing information with other EU countries "and we are ready and willing to provide those security guarantees, which could perhaps include troops — but . . . they would not be along the front lines, they would not be part of any conflict".



17 hours ago

Peter Wells in New York

Trump says war in Ukraine could be concluded 'within weeks'

Donald Trump said the war in Ukraine could soon be brought to an end.

"I think we could end it within weeks, if we're smart," the US president said as he and French President Emmanuel Macron spoke to reporters in the White House on Monday.

“If we’re not smart, it will keep going and we’ll keep losing young beautiful people that shouldn’t be dying. And we don’t want that,” Trump said. “And — remember what I said — this could escalate into a third world war, and we don’t want that either.”



18 hours ago

Leila Abboud in Paris

Trump says Putin would not object to peacekeeping troops in Ukraine

US President Donald Trump said he believes Russia’s leader Vladimir Putin would not object to the presence of peacekeeping troops in Ukraine after the conflict ended.

During remarks at the White House with French President Emmanuel Macron, Trump was asked whether he thought Putin would accept such a presence.

“He will accept that,” Trump said. “I’ve asked him that question. If we do a deal he’s not looking for more war. I’ve specifically asked him that question, and he has no problem with it.”



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Trump also played down the idea that ensuring Ukraine’s long-term security would be difficult — a contrasting view from that in European capitals, which fear continued Russian aggression in the region.

Asked if security guarantees for Ukraine would be included in the minerals deal the US has been seeking, Trump said: “Europe is going to make sure nothing happens. I don’t think it’s going to be much of a problem.”



18 hours ago

Zehra Munir in New York

Trump says Macron ‘very helpful’ in efforts to end war in Ukraine

US President Donald Trump said “a lot of progress has been made” and “we’re trying to get the war ended with Russia and Ukraine” in remarks made to reporters alongside French President Emmanuel Macron.

Trump called Macron “a very special man in my book”. The US leader added the president of France has been “very helpful” as his administration endeavours to end the war in Ukraine.

Macron said: “I’m here with all my colleagues to say that Europe is willing to step up to be a stronger partner, to do more on defence and security for its continent, and . . . to be engaged on trade, economy, investment.”



19 hours ago

Henry Foy in Brussels

Von der Leyen says EU will continue to ‘intensify pressure’ against Russia

The EU will continue to hold Russia to account for its invasion of Ukraine and demand Kyiv has a seat in peace negotiations to end the war, European Commission president Ursula von der Leyen said.

Speaking in Kyiv as the UN votes took place, von der Leyen said the EU’s stance towards Russia was “rock solid”.

“We will continue to intensify pressure against Russia and its war machine through our unprecedented economic sanctions, and we will continue to hold Russia responsible and accountable for the many crimes it has committed,” she said.

“What is at stake is not only Ukraine’s right to exist as a free nation, but also the future of our European continent.”



19 hours ago

Felicia Schwartz in Washington

Trump says he emphasised critical minerals deal with Ukraine in G7 call

US President Donald Trump said he and others on a call between G7 leaders “expressed their goal of seeing the war end”.

In a [post](#) on his Truth Social platform he said he also emphasised the [critical minerals deal](#) with Ukraine, “which we hope will be signed very soon!”

He said the deal would ensure “the American people recoup the tens of billions of dollars and military equipment sent to Ukraine” and would help Kyiv’s economy grow.

Trump added that he was also holding “serious discussions” with Russian President Vladimir Putin on the end of the war “and also major economic development transactions which will take place between the United States and Russia”.



20 hours ago

Henry Foy in Brussels

G7 leaders fail to agree joint statement on anniversary of Russian invasion

G7 leaders failed to agree on a joint statement during a virtual meeting held on the third anniversary of Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, after the US refused to endorse a text that included reference to Russia's "aggression".

Discussions are still ongoing to try to find a compromise text, officials briefed on the talks said, suggesting one could still emerge tomorrow.

The cleavage in G7 unity on Ukraine comes as US President Donald Trump pushes for a rapid peace deal through bilateral talks with Moscow, alongside verbal attacks on Ukraine's leader Volodymyr Zelenskyy.



20 hours ago

Felicia Schwartz in Washington

US abstains from UN General Assembly vote backing Ukraine's sovereignty

The US abstained from voting on an amended version of its UN General Assembly resolution, which backed Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

The General Assembly adopted the amended resolution — which was separate from that condemning Russia's invasion of Ukraine — with 90 votes in favour. China and Hungary also abstained while Russia voted against it. The US said it would vote against its own resolution if amendments were added.

Its resolution is a short three paragraphs and does not single out Moscow for any responsibility in the conflict. It "implores a swift end to the conflict and further urges a lasting peace between Ukraine and the Russian Federation"

THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION



20 hours ago

Felicia Schwartz in Washington and Henry Foy in Brussels

UN General Assembly passes resolution condemning Russia's invasion of Ukraine

The UN General Assembly has passed a resolution condemning Russia's invasion of Ukraine co-sponsored by Kyiv and EU nations, despite the US voting against it and urging other states to do so.

The resolution passed with 93 votes in favour. The US and Russia were two of 18 votes against. China, one of Moscow's closest allies since Russia's invasion of Ukraine in early 2022, abstained, alongside 64 other countries.

The extraordinary move by the US comes as President Donald Trump's rapid shift on the war in Ukraine threatens to tear apart decades of western unity.

The US had urged countries to vote against as it has its own resolution that calls for peace in the three-year-long war and does not condemn Russia's invasion or its ongoing aggression against Ukraine.

Trump has pushed for a rapid peace deal through bilateral talks with Moscow that bypassed Europe and Kyiv, spooking European capitals who fear a schism in an 80-year transatlantic relationship that has underpinned the continent's security.

The UN Security Council, in which the US and four other permanent members have veto rights, is likely to vote on the issue later in the day.

The General Assembly vote, which came shortly after G7 leaders failed to agree on a joint statement condemning Russia's war against Ukraine on the third anniversary of President Vladimir Putin's invasion, has exposed the widening gulf between the US and Europe in the early months of Trump's second term.

In a further diplomatic setback to the Trump administration on Monday, its own resolution tabled in opposition to the Ukrainian text, backing Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity, was only passed after it was amended to include a reference to Russia's invasion.

The US ultimately abstained in the final vote on its own resolution.

Both resolutions passed with 93 votes in favour, with many major US aid recipients, such as Egypt, defying Washington's pressure to vote in support of Ukraine.



20 hours ago

Schedule of events: Trump to meet Macron at White House

12.15 EASTERN TIME

US President Donald Trump to greet French counterpart Emmanuel Macron at White House

12.20 ET

Trump hosts bilateral meeting with Macron in the Oval Office

12.35 ET

Trump participates in a bilateral meeting and lunch with Macron

14.00 ET

Trump holds a joint press conference with Macron



20 hours ago

Henry Foy in Brussels, Jude Webber in Dublin, Leila Abboud in Paris and Christopher Miller in Kyiv

Europe and US clash over Ukraine in G7 and UN

The US and Europe are battling in the UN and G7 over whether to blame Russia for its war against Ukraine, as President Donald Trump's rapid shift on the conflict threatens to tear apart western unity.

The Trump administration and the EU have proposed rival UN resolutions at the Security Council and General Assembly on Monday, while G7 diplomats spent the weekend haggling over whether a joint statement due to be released by the group of rich nations would refer to Russia's "aggression" against Ukraine or not.

Kaja Kallas said she was 'worried' about some of the statements coming from the US © Reuters

Officials said that, without a last-minute compromise, the US could side with Russia and China to prevent a western European-backed show of support for Kyiv.

Read more [here](#)

