

INTERNATIONAL WEEKLY

№04 01.03.2024-15.03.2024

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- Foreign and Defense Policy of Ukraine
- The course of the Russian-Ukrainian war

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Ukraine – European Union

- *THEME ANALYSIS: France takes the lead from the US in uniting Europe against the Russian military invasion.*



Photo: AP

Last month, a working meeting of about 20 European leaders took place in Paris to discuss ways to confront Russia and possible ways to support Ukraine in its confrontation with the aggressor.

French President Emmanuel Macron did not rule out the possibility of sending NATO troops to support Ukraine, noting that there is no consensus on this issue yet. "These are very serious topics. Every word I say on this topic is deliberate, meditated and balanced," the president said. In his turn, French Foreign Minister Sejourne explained what operations foreign military could carry out in Ukraine.¹

Czech President Petr Pavel said that he "joins" the French president in saying that "we cannot be satisfied with the support that is being provided today", "we need to look for new opportunities, in particular, to discuss a possible presence in Ukraine in various forms".

At the same time, the Czech president added that he was "*in favour of looking for new options, including debates about a potential presence in Ukraine*", but without crossing the "red line" of deploying "combat units".

However, several European countries, including Germany, Poland, Italy, and the United States, responded to his reaction by **categorically rejecting the idea of sending in ground troops**. NATO Secretary General Stoltenberg also confirmed that there are no plans to deploy NATO combat troops in Ukraine.

¹ Всі слова "зважені та виважені". Макрон пояснив заяву по відправку військових до України. 29.02.2024 <https://www.rbc.ua/rus/news/vsi-slova-zvazheni-ta-vivazheni-makron-poyasniv-1709222594.html>

However, other statements by French President Macron, such as **the creation of a missile coalition** aimed at providing Ukraine with long-range weapons and the possibility of Western troops entering the country, caused a significant response.

Meanwhile, the French National Assembly, on Macron's initiative, held a debate on support for Ukraine. Prime Minister Gabriel Attal gave a stunning speech on the strategy to support Ukraine and the bilateral security agreement, after which representatives of political parties took part in the debate, followed by a symbolic vote.

The debate was marked by controversy between different political forces, from the government coalition to the far left and far right. For example, Marine Le Pen's National Rally party has already expressed concern about the possible vote, as it wants to support Ukraine but does not want to cross "red lines" such as NATO and EU membership. Representatives of right-wing parties have condemned the president for "trying to drag France into a world war". But there are shifts here too, as Le Pen, Putin's former best friend, has publicly condemned him for starting the war in Ukraine. Despite all the debate, the discussions initiated by Macron highlight **the need to discuss and develop a common strategy to respond to threats.**

Socialists have shown support for Macron in these debates. *It is important to note that President Macron emphasised that there are no restrictions or "red lines" in France's support for Ukraine.*

Also at the meeting, Macron said that *"the Kremlin regime has stepped up its aggression" against France and its allies* in terms of disinformation and in cyberspace, and called it a "new phase". He called on the allies to make a *"European breakthrough"* and to start a new phase of strategic and operational thinking.

Macron called on those who say that Western support for Ukraine cannot "exceed the limits" to turn to President Putin and ask him what he is willing to do, stressing that it was Vladimir Putin himself who started the war in Ukraine.

In the end, French lawmakers supported the security agreement with Ukraine after a tense debate. The 10-year agreement includes Paris' commitment to supply more weapons, train soldiers and send up to €3 billion in military aid to Ukraine until 2024. The vote for the agreement was a landslide: 372 votes in favour, 99 against, and 101 abstentions.

The National Cohesion party abstained from voting. On the other hand, the left-wing party "France Unconquered" voted against the agreement. This was clearly stated by Prime Minister Gabriel Attal, who emphasised the importance of taking responsibility before history and avoiding losing face in the face of the challenges facing the country.

In the new year, France is not only providing verbal support to Ukraine. On 18 January, the creation of the **Artillery for Ukraine** coalition was announced in Paris, bringing together more than twenty countries. On 1 February, EU leaders approved €50 billion in financial aid to Ukraine for the next four years, with sources at the Elysee Palace noting that Macron played a decisive role in this. On 12 February, Macron received Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk, followed by a meeting of the Weimar Triangle at the level of foreign ministers to discuss strengthening the fight against Russian cyber aggression and providing additional support to Ukraine.

It should also be remembered that on 16 February, the French president received Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky at the Elysee Palace. During this meeting, the parties signed a **bilateral agreement on security cooperation for ten years**. At a joint press conference, Macron expressed his admiration for the Ukrainian people and reaffirmed France's determination to continue supporting Ukraine in the long term. He stressed that this is the main meaning of the signed bilateral security agreement.

Experts and political commentators have made various assumptions about the reasons for this unusual change in the French rhetoric. Some see Macron as working on his political legacy, while others see it as a strategic move to overcome *"strategic uncertainty"*.

However, one thing is clear: these statements are indicative of the profound transformation

that the European political elite is currently undergoing. In particular, the elite of the European Union, especially France, which is the only EU country with nuclear weapons. Europeans are beginning to realise that they may be left alone in the face of geopolitical turbulence. Political processes in the United States leave no doubt that **it is time for the European Union and other countries of the civilised world to think about ensuring their own security**. It is highly likely that any outcome of the US elections will lead to *isolationism*. Returning to the topic of European security, European countries understand that they can no longer rely solely on US support.

Against the backdrop of major media publications about Russia's possible aggression against the Baltic States, Poland and even Germany, European governments have begun to allocate billions of euros for rearmament. And in this matter, Europe has two natural allies - Ukraine and Israel. They were the first to feel the blow from the already formed bloc of aggressive dictatorships that intend to impose their rules on the entire civilised world.

Israel can take an active part in rearming European countries, and it seems to be doing so already. For example, Germany is purchasing the most advanced air defence system, the Hetz, which is capable of shooting down ballistic missiles almost in space and has been successfully tested in combat during the recent Yemeni Houthis' attacks on Israel. The Netherlands is also purchasing this system. In addition, Israeli defence corporations are signing large contracts with European countries to supply armoured vehicles with systems for armament, patrolling, driving and situation monitoring.²

Ukraine, on the other hand, has invaluable experience in the largest war on the continent since World War II. Ukraine's armed forces are the most capable army in Europe, fighting a war of the highest intensity on a gigantic front. No one in Europe knows in practice how to fight a modern full-scale war. There is a suspicion that even the civilian European infrastructure is not ready for a potential attack by Russia and its allies. The availability of modern weapons, the quality of which has been proven on the battlefield in Ukraine, does not mean the ability to use them effectively. And the Armed Forces of Ukraine can do that.

New forms of cooperation are needed to withstand the pressure of the unification of dictatorships. Therefore, there is no other way but to spend much more on defence. We will have to accelerate our military-industrial complex again. Many projects that Europe admired so much before Russia's full-scale war against Ukraine will have to be abandoned. For Europe, this will mean a decline in the standard of living of its citizens, the curtailment of many social programmes, etc.

Today, the European Union must rely not only and not so much on old agreements with its allies, but also make very unpopular and painful decisions for its own security. By actively engaging Kyiv and Jerusalem in close cooperation, providing political, financial and military support.

Ukraine and Israel would also benefit from rethinking the current situation. While these countries have their own differences, they both face serious challenges due to the domestic political instability in the United States. At the moment, we see no signs of a successful resolution of this crisis. ***It seems that in the coming years, it is in the EU countries that we should look for our closest friends and allies. We share common threats and common enemies, and we have much to offer each other.***

France and the Czech Republic understand the ever-growing threat and recognise the need to act in accordance with historical precedents and with courage. Such statements, along with plans to provide military assistance to Ukraine, demonstrate the countries' readiness to respond to risks and protect the international order.

² Країни ЄС уже не впевнені, що союзники по НАТО прийдуть на допомогу в разі нападу Росії чи Ірану. Європа має залучати до співпраці Україну та Ізраїль.03.03.2024.
<https://gordonua.com/ukr/blogs/leonid-nevzlin/krajini-jes-uzhe-ne-vpevneni-shcho-sojuzniki-po-nato-prijdut-na-dopomohu-v-razi-napadu-rosiji-chi-iranu-jevropa-maje-zaluchati-do-spivpratsi-ukrajinu-ta-izrajil-1699676.html>

To this end, Paris is already taking certain steps by inviting representatives of the EU and NATO to a regular video conference. Obviously, at this time, the deteriorating situation in eastern Europe requires concerted action and active support from allies. The conference proposed by France will allow to discuss concrete possibilities of providing assistance to Ukraine, including the supply of ammunition and the organisation of a stockpile release system, as well as means of protection against cyber attacks and assistance in strengthening the border. It also confirms the growing outrage and awareness in Europe about Russian aggression and the threats it poses.

But as the reaction within NATO and within France itself shows, it is unfortunately too early to talk about Europe's "awakening". However, the fact that a state and a leader who once held a moderate position are now expressing such determination is a positive step that has the potential to turn from an isolated incident into a trend.

However, the fact that one of Europe's leading countries has taken such a position is certainly a ray of light in this difficult period for Ukraine. And we can expect France's future firmness on this issue. In fact, involvement in European armaments is inherent in Paris' policy. Ever since the end of World War II, France has been fascinated by the idea of a strong Europe with a strong army. In addition, Paris has never been fond of the great American influence on the European continent. This has led to numerous crises in US-French relations, including France's withdrawal from NATO in the 1960s and the creation of its own nuclear weapons. In addition, French presidents have previously seen partnership with Russia as a good option to curb American influence.

Speaking of Macron, he has returned to the project of creating a common EU army since the beginning of his term, and has identified France's return to leadership in the alliance as one of his foreign policy priorities. At the same time, it can be argued that for a long time he continued the tradition of perceiving Russia as a potential ally. *But now the illusion of friendship with Russia has been finally broken.* At the same time, France has an opportunity to satisfy its old interests. Although they pose a major challenge for Europe, Paris has the determination to do so, which has been developed over the years. **France, especially now, after the turmoil in its important Africa, is more than ever ready to fight for leadership in Europe.** For Ukraine, this is, of course, a very fortunate coincidence, because now more than ever, there is a need for a strong and strong-willed ally to lead others.

Foreign and Defense Policy of Ukraine

- **THEME ANALYSIS:** *Armistice as another attempt to prevent the escalation of the World War at the expense of Ukraine*



Source: Getty Images

While on the one hand, there is a trend in Europe towards remilitarisation and increased assistance to Ukraine, there is no consensus on this. ***While the possibility of a Russian attack on NATO countries encourages some to take a more decisive stance, others are more likely to fall into a position of fear, trying to "appease" Putin by all means.***

Back in December 2023, a confidential meeting was held between Ukraine, its G7 allies, and the countries of the Global South to seek Kyiv's support for the conditions for peace talks with Russia. The meeting took place in Saudi Arabia and was aimed at freely discussing the Formula for Peace for Ukraine, plans for the peace process, and principles of possible future engagement with Russia. However, allied efforts have been weakened by the ongoing Russian invasion, and promises by some EU countries to provide more assistance in the defence sector have not been fulfilled.

According to Bloomberg, representatives who attended the secret meeting in Riyadh said that little progress was made at the last meeting, and Ukraine and its G7 allies continue to resist calls for direct engagement with Russia from the Global South. High-level officials from India, Saudi Arabia and Turkey attended the meeting, but China, Brazil and the United Arab Emirates did not, indicating that they refused to participate. Many of the participating countries believe that Beijing has significant influence over Moscow because of their close relationship. And its ostentatious absence can certainly be interpreted as a silent but eloquent statement.

Ukraine and its G7 allies continued to defend their position, stressing the need to respect Ukraine's territorial integrity and sovereignty, and pointed out the lack of seriousness shown by Russia, and especially President Vladimir Putin, in conducting substantive negotiations and implementing previous agreements. At the same time, the European Union and the United States expressed confidence that support packages will be agreed.

Thus, it seems that ***a global split is already in place, and that despite Europe's "awakening", Russia still has significant influence and is able to bribe certain countries in***

its favour. For example, Kyiv has been repeatedly criticised for allegedly not engaging Moscow enough. And foreign media outlets such as Bloomberg reported that in late 2023, a person close to the Kremlin suggested that there had been contacts that showed interest in concluding a ceasefire agreement, but no specific details were disclosed. Ukraine and its allies are suspicious of such contacts, believing them to be a Kremlin strategy to cut off support for Kyiv and buy time.

It should be noted that **Putin has expressed his willingness to end the conflict, but only on conditions that he personally set, including the removal of the Zelensky government and a significant reduction in Ukraine's military power.** And we can see Russia's covert and overt allies pushing this narrative in their calls for a ceasefire.

For example, some representatives of the Global South suggested that Ukraine should take Russia's concerns into account in peace talks, but it was not disclosed which participants in the meeting made this suggestion. In response, the Ukrainian side, according to unnamed EU officials, cited examples of past dialogue and international agreements with Russia that it had violated.

However, it should not be assumed that all participants representing the so-called Global South were pro-Russian. For example, some African representatives noted the importance of the message sent by Ukraine that "bullies do not always win" and pointed to the widespread instability that Russia's actions are causing, particularly in the Sahel and surrounding regions.

But Russia's allies are certainly powerful players such as China and India. The danger is that Moscow has also managed to find them in the West. That is why countries such as Hungary, Slovakia, and Serbia are constantly insisting on negotiations and the cessation of aid to Ukraine. Russia has also engaged influential world figures, such as the Pope.

Coming now to China, in February last year it unveiled a 12-point plan to resolve the conflict. Among them are such important points for Russia as a return to the status quo after the end of the Cold War, the resumption of negotiations and a ceasefire, and the lifting of sanctions. And now China is ready to actively promote this vision.

This is evidenced, in particular, by the European tour of Chinese Special Representative Li Hui to Moscow, Kyiv and Berlin to discuss the prospects for a ceasefire in Ukraine. Following Li Hui's meeting with German Foreign Ministry State Secretary Thomas Bagger, Foreign Ministry spokesman Sebastian Fischer said at a briefing on 11 March that efforts to achieve peace were discussed, including the planned Global Peace Summit to be organised by Switzerland. Fischer also noted that during the conversation, the differences in the positions of China and the EU regarding Russia's aggressive war against Ukraine and Russia's invitation to the Summit became apparent.

However, despite these efforts, China has not been able to influence the mood of its Western allies. For example, Berlin expressed appreciation for China's peaceful efforts to end the war in Ukraine, but noted that no new initiatives have been presented by China so far. The German side once again stressed that Beijing's attitude to this "central issue" has a major impact on relations between Germany, Europe and China, and raises concerns about cooperation between China and Russia, in particular in the supply of dual-use goods and avoidance of sanctions by Chinese companies. The German side stressed that there can be no talk of ending support for Ukraine, Fischer added.³

The same can be said of the efforts of Putin's other friends. It seems that not everyone in Trump's party shares his vision of friendship with Russia at the expense of Ukraine. Three Republican-led committees of the U.S. House of Representatives have released a plan to win Ukraine, criticising the White House for not providing enough assistance to Ukraine and

³ Берлін заявив спецпредставнику Китаю, що про припинення підтримки України не може бути й мови. 11.03.2024. <https://espreso.tv/svit-berlin-zayaviv-spetspredstavniku-kitayu-shcho-pro-pripinennya-pidtrimki-ukraini-ne-mozhe-buti-y-movi>

calling on President Joe Biden to take decisive action. ⁴

The document, signed by the chairmen of the Foreign Affairs, Armed Services and Intelligence Committees and drafted late last year, features photos of modern dictators Vladimir Putin, Xi Jinping, Ali Khamenei and Alexander Lukashenko on the cover and states that it is a response to questions about US and allied support for Ukraine and a vision of victory for the Ukrainian people and defeat for Russia. The document consists of five sections: "The Threat", "A Proposed Plan for Victory", "Surveillance", "Distribution of Support", and "A Timeline of Biden's Deadly Delays in Providing Arms to Ukraine".

The document notes that Russia and its alliance, which includes China, Iran, and their allies such as Hamas, Hezbollah, and North Korea, are working together against American interests around the world to weaken the US economy, disintegrate key alliances, and establish a new world order based on totalitarianism. The document emphasises that this is one of the most dangerous sets of adversaries that the United States has faced since World War II. The committee chairs say the document contains information for voters that explains why support for Ukraine is essential and they have a responsibility to defend freedom from countries that pose a threat, such as Russia, China and Iran. The authors of the document calls on President Joe Biden to present a victory plan for Ukraine and provide it with the necessary weapons as soon as possible.

The House Republicans argue that *President Biden's hesitation to provide Ukraine with critical weapons has delayed Ukraine's victory*, which needs long-range missiles, F-16 fighter jets, cluster munitions, artillery, air defence and armoured vehicles to change the situation on the frontline and save Ukrainian lives. They call for the swift delivery of critical weapons, stronger sanctions against Russia, and the unfreezing of \$300 billion in Russian sovereign assets for Ukraine. The congressmen emphasise that inspections have not revealed any irregularities in the provision of US assistance.

So, in fact, this intensification of calls for a truce suggests not only that Russia still has allies, but that these partners are as concerned as Russia is about the intensification of their Ukrainian friends in continuing to support them. *If Russia was confident that the Western alliance in support of Ukraine would definitely disintegrate after the political crisis in the United States, it is now clear that this is far from the case.* Yes, there is still a period of turbulence and uncertainty, but new leaders are emerging who are ready to defend their positions of support for Ukraine. This irritates Russia and its allies, and they are doing everything they can to prevent it. It is good that they have not been successful so far.

⁴ Республіканська партія США розробила свій План перемоги України: що він передбачає. 11.01.2024. <https://fakty.com.ua/ua/svit/20240111-respublikanska-partiya-ssha-rozrobyla-svij-plan-peremogy-ukrayiny-shho-vin-peredbachaye/>



Source: Army FM

■ Changes at the front

Trend: *After capturing Avdiivka, Russian troops try to build on their success in Chasovyi Yar, Vuhledar, Krasnohorivka and other strategic areas, but face stiff resistance from the Ukrainian Defence Forces.*

The situation in eastern and southern Ukraine remains extremely difficult.

In the Siversky and Slobozhansky directions, Russian aviation conducts systematic air strikes in the areas of the settlements of Vilne, Velyka Pysarivka, Popivka in Sumy region; Vovchansk in Kharkiv region. About 30 localities in Sumy and Kharkiv regions came under Russian artillery and mortar fire;

In the Kupyansk direction, the Ukrainian Defence Forces repelled systematic Russian attacks in the areas of Tabaiivka, Kharkiv region, and Stelmakhivka, Luhansk region, where the enemy tried to force units out of their positions. More than 10 settlements, including Sinkivka, Ivanivka and Berestove in the Kharkiv region, are under enemy artillery and mortar fire;

In the Liman direction, the enemy tried to break through the defences of Ukrainian troops and launched air strikes near Bilohorivka, Luhansk region. Artillery and mortar shelling damaged more than 10 localities, including Bilohorivka in Luhansk region; Terny, Spirne, Rozdolivka in Donetsk region;

In the Bakhmut direction, Russians continues to advance in the areas east of Chasovyi Yar, Bohdanivka and Klishchyivka in the Donetsk region, where the enemy, with the support of aviation, tried to improve its tactical position;

In the Avdiivka direction, Ukrainian forces continue to hold the defence in the areas of Berdychi, Orlivka, Tonenke, Pervomaiske in the Donetsk region.

In the Novopavlivka direction, the Ukrainian Defence Forces continue to hold back the enemy in the areas of Krasnohorivka, Heorhiivka and Novomykhailivka in Donetsk region, where Russians, with the support of aviation, tried to break through the defences of Ukrainian troops 19 times. About 20 settlements, including Krasnohorivka, Heorhiivka, Paraskoviiivka, Vuhledar in the Donetsk region, came under artillery and mortar fire from the occupiers;

In the Orikhivsk direction, with the support of aviation, Russians continues to attack the positions of Ukrainian defenders in the areas of Staromayorske in Donetsk region, west of Verbove and Robotyne in Zaporizhzhia region. Russians also carried out air strikes in the areas of Neskuchne, Donetsk region, and Mala Tokmachka, Zaporizhzhia region. About 20 settlements are under artillery and mortar fire, including Poltavka, Chervone, Bilohirya, Robotyne in Zaporizhzhia region;

In the Kherson direction, the enemy does not abandon its intention to drive Ukrainian units from their footholds on the left bank of the Dnipro River. About 30 settlements in the right-bank part of Kherson region came under artillery and mortar fire.

■ *Military assistance*

The United States warned that after receiving the F-16s, Ukraine would have "a unique air capability that is designed to focus on Ukraine's defence of its sovereign territory and within Ukraine's sovereign borders".

The Czech Republic has sent the last two Mi-24 attack helicopters to Ukraine for the needs of the Ukrainian Armed Forces.

The Netherlands will allocate more than €150 million for the purchase of air-to-ground weapons for F-16 fighter jets awaiting delivery to Ukraine. We are talking about guided bombs, in particular, JDAM. Their long-range version, the JDAM-ER, is actively used by Ukrainian MiG-29 and Su-27 fighters. The contract for their purchase will be signed directly with the manufacturer. The Netherlands will also purchase reconnaissance drones for Ukraine worth €200 million. This is done in consultation with other partners and the Ukrainian Armed Forces.

Estonia has announced a new military aid package that will include artillery, ammunition and infantry equipment. The package includes recoilless anti-tank guns, explosives, various types of artillery ammunition, gas masks, sniper equipment, 66 of artillery shells for Ukraine under the Czech initiative.

Spain plans to provide 20 additional Leopard 2A4 tanks to the Ukrainian Armed Forces in 2024, bringing the total number of Leopard 2 tanks provided to the Ukrainian Armed Forces to 30.⁵

■ *Russia: External and internal challenges*

Trend: *Russia's global information operation as preparation for a new offensive phase of a large-scale war against Ukraine and the West*

The Defence Intelligence of Ukraine has reported that Russian propagandists continue the

⁵ <https://mil.in.ua/uk/tag/vijskova-dopomoga/>

active phase of the Perun information operation. This operation is aimed at destabilising the political situation in Ukraine and Western countries. And its main goal is to create conditions for solving the tasks of the so-called "SVO". Operation Perun is also being conducted on the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine and in most regions of Russia. It involves units of the "Federal Service of the National Guard" and spies of the "Main Intelligence Directorate of Russia", Ukrainian intelligence officers stressed. ⁶According to the DIU, Kremlin propagandists issue instructions to Russian Guard spies to carry out such activities:

- Discrediting Ukrainian and Western pro-Ukrainian politicians, accusing them of corruption and betrayal of Ukraine's interests.
- Justifying Russia's aggression against Ukraine and covering the situation around our country from a position favourable to the Kremlin.
- Spreading disinformation about the "normalisation of life" in the Ukrainian territories enslaved by Russia with the direct involvement of the Russian leadership.
- Formation of the image of "Ukrainian Nazis" in the Russian and European media space, etc.

According to the Russian methodology, the Kremlin's special services should talk about the events in Ukraine in the first half of 2024, using both well-known and newly invented fake narratives: about the planning of a coup d'état in Kyiv, accusing Ukraine of starting hostilities in Donbas, the massacre of pro-Russian activists in Odesa, etc. The intensification of propaganda activities was planned for the day of the so-called Russian presidential election. The end of Operation Perun is scheduled to be completed by 30 June this year," the Defence Intelligence of Ukraine concluded.

Another Russian information campaign is Operation Maidan-3, which aims to undermine the internal situation in Ukraine by provoking mass protests in order to undermine confidence in the Ukrainian government, demoralise the Ukrainian people, sow panic among the population, and stir up conflict between military and civilian groups, and between various political forces and NGOs.

The main directions of this operation include: disrupting mobilisation efforts in Ukraine, spreading disinformation about the ineffectiveness of Ukrainian efforts to achieve victory, creating and spreading fake messages about Ukraine's fatigue among its international partners. ***The global goal of this operation is to reduce support for Ukraine from international allies and partners who support Ukrainian statehood.***

Russian intelligence services are also trying to question the legitimacy of government decisions made in Ukraine after 20 May, especially in the context of Zelensky. The Russians are trying to use the part of the Ukrainian Constitution that states that the president's term cannot end without elections, but they are impossible in a time of war. In this regard, Volodymyr Zelensky said that the Kremlin is behind the talk of his illegitimacy as president of Ukraine after May 2024, and that it is paying for this campaign. After all, regardless of a full-scale war, his term as head of state would end in early May.⁷

According to intelligence, \$1.5 billion was spent on this operation. This demonstrates the serious scale and financial efforts that the Russian regime is investing in its destructive actions. Obviously, this operation is one of the most costly in the history of Russian special services. Operation Maidan-3 is scheduled to culminate in March-May 2024. The Russian regime will spend every effort to spread destructive narratives and attempts to foment conflicts, both inside Ukraine and in other parts of the world where Ukraine is supported. The Russian plan is to undermine the situation in Ukraine in early June, followed by a military defeat of the Ukrainian army in the east. This reflects not only the strategic goals of the Russian regime, but also the danger it poses to Ukrainian statehood and global security in

⁶ Операція "Перун". РФ активізувала пропаганду перед вибори, ГУР розкрило деталі. 13.03.2024.
<https://www.rbc.ua/rus/news/operatsiya-perun-rf-aktivizovala-propagandu-1710320618.html>

⁷ Розвідка: У березні-травні спецоперація Росії "Майдан-3" досягне кульмінації.28.02.2024.
<https://www.pravda.com.ua/news/2024/02/27/7443989/>

general.

The situation described above is indeed serious and potentially dangerous for Ukraine and the world. Public statements and actions of the Russian Federation indicate its intention to use various methods, including information, to achieve its goals in Ukraine. *Russia's efforts to create new types of hybrid weapons and influence Ukrainian society could have serious consequences for both Ukraine and international security.*

As Russia has ambitious plans for Ukraine, it is important that Ukrainian society, its international partners and allies work together to counter these threats. Public awareness of information security needs to be raised, and effective measures to counter hybrid warfare need to be developed and implemented. Only through joint efforts can we successfully counter the threats posed by Russia and other potential aggressors.

The spokesperson for the Defence Intelligence of Ukraine, Andrii Yusov, has already stated that Russia's information attempts have failed. Nevertheless, this shows that Russia does not intend to stop its attempts to manipulate information and influence public opinion in Ukraine. **Thus, it is important to continue to be cautious and respond to such attempts with appropriate countermeasures.**