



Transatlantic Dialogue Center

Weekly briefing

February 27 – March 5

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International support

02.03

- MFA heads of **G20 countries** have **not agreed on a joint final declaration** at a meeting in India due to the argument concerning the war against Ukraine. Only Lavrov and the head of the Chinese MFA did not agree on two points concerning the condemnation of the Russian war against Ukraine and the call for Russia to withdraw troops.

01.03

- **The European Commission** prepared a three-stage **plan to significantly increase ammo production** in Europe and its supply to Ukraine.
- According to Politico, the **EU** shifts accents from adopting new **sanctions** against Russia to ensuring compliance and **strengthening the existing** ones. Diplomats from ten EU countries claim that sanctions against those sectors that were left out of sanctions would hit the bloc more than Russia.
- Stoltenberg, **NATO** Secretary General, informed that he invited Zelenskyi to take part in the **Alliance summit in Vilnius** in July. He expressed hope that at the summit they will negotiate the new steps and measures ensuring long-term support of Ukraine.
- **The Slovak Republic** considers an opportunity of **providing Ukraine with 10 of 11 of its Mig-29 aircraft** decommissioned last year. The decision will be made within several days or weeks. In this case, the Slovak Republic will become the first NATO member state, which provides Kyiv with combat aircraft.

28.02

- Ukraine will receive from **Germany** two short ranged air **defense systems Skynex**. German company Rheinmetall has manufactured them for Ukraine. Their price is estimated at \$212 million. The Skynex air defense system is **capable of shooting UAVs** and cruise missiles.
- **Japan** has imposed new **sanctions on Russia**. The government has announced **freezing assets** of 73 legal entities and 39 individuals from the Russian Federation and 9 from Crimea, the self-proclaimed DPR and LPR, Zaporizhzhia, and Kherson oblasts.

27.02

- The European Commission and Poland are launching an **initiative to search for Ukrainian children, who were unlawfully moved from the occupied territories** of Ukraine by the Russian military. Dana Spinant, European Commission's Spokeswoman said: *"As estimated, since the invasion began, Russian troops have sent thousands of Ukrainian children to Russia. Abduction of Ukrainian children is a big social problem, a tragedy, and a crime"*.
- **The EU** has extended one-year **sanctions against Belarus** due to internal repression by the regime and its support for the war against Ukraine. Restrictive measures include a ban on entry into the EU and asset freezing for those on the list (currently 195 people, including Aleksandr Lukashenko), as well as an asset freeze applicable to 34 entities.
- **The United States** has provided Ukraine with **\$1.25 trillion** to pay for social security, higher education employees, and rescue workers. In 2023, the U.S. confirmed its intention to provide Ukraine with \$9.9 billion.
- Vincent Van Peteghem, Minister of finance of **Belgium**, says that the country has **frozen €58 billion of Russian assets**. It is the largest amount in the EU.

04.03

- Ambassador of Ukraine to the United Kingdom Vadym Prystaiko stated that after Volodymyr Zelenskyi's visit to London, the local authorities decided to **double the promised quantity of Challenger 2 tanks** for the Ukrainian Armed Forces. Thus, Ukraine will receive 28 units of this equipment. The United Kingdom is armed with 227 such tanks.
- Ursula von der Leyen supported the initiative to hold Russian President Vladimir Putin accountable for crimes against Ukraine. She announced this when **establishing the International Center for Prosecution of Crimes of Aggression against Ukraine**. *"Russia must be brought to liability for its horrible crimes. Putin must be brought to liability. To bring the perpetrators to justice, we must do everything in our power"*.
- The Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine has adopted the **State anti-corruption program**, on the implementation of which EU and G7 states have insisted. It includes measures aimed at increasing the efficiency of the anti-corruption system.

03.03

- **The USA** has officially announced a **new package of military aid** to Ukraine in the amount of \$400 million. It will include ammunition for HIMARS and howitzers, Bradley IFV, and other equipment. According to the officials, for the first time, a package will consist of armored bridge layers – a system used for building bridges over trenches and narrow water obstacles.
- The Financial Times states that almost all of the **EU countries** have agreed on a plan for a fast **supply of Ukraine with scarce artillery ammunition** that can be transferred within several weeks. As stated, all of the EU countries except for Denmark and Norway have joined the project, which provides for joint purchases of ammunition.
- US President Joe Biden and German Chancellor Olaf Scholz at the meeting in the White House reaffirmed the intention of **keeping Russia under sanctions as long as needed**.
- The first batch of **solar panels from the European Union** is already heading to Ukraine. *"Together with Ukraine, we are repairing and restoring damaged infrastructure, as well as developing renewable energy"*, reported Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission. *"Now I can announce that the first batch of solar panels will soon be delivered to Ukraine. ENEL (Italian biggest energy company) is donating 5 700 panels"*. Von der Leyen added that these batches will cover 11 thousand square meters of roofs of public buildings and will provide electricity to schools, hospitals, and fire departments.

02.03

- According to Spiegel, **German Chancellor** Olaf Scholz does not currently believe that Russian President Vladimir Putin is ready to negotiate a "just peace" in Ukraine. He also reaffirmed his continued **support for Ukraine with arms supplies**. During a speech in the Bundestag, he said that in the coming weeks, Ukraine will receive Gepard anti-aircraft self-propelled guns and the IRIS-T air defense system.
- **France** is considering transferring **Mirage 2000 fighters** to Ukraine and might begin **training Ukrainian pilots** in Poland. According to BMF TV, this information was confirmed by Sébastien Lecornu, Head of the country's defense ministry. He acknowledged that negotiations with Kyiv are being held, but did not confirm either the transfer or the training of the flight crew.



Military positions

- ✓ The Russian army is focusing its main efforts on conducting offensive operations against Kupiansk, Lyman, Bakhmut, Avdiivka, and Shakhtarsk.
- ✓ Russia-backed militants continue unsuccessful offensives against Bakhmut, Avdiivka, Marinka, and Vuhledar.
- ✓ Towards Zaporizhzhia and Kherson, the enemy is on the defensive, trying to improve its tactical position and resume the offensive.
- ✓ The operational situation remains unchanged for Volyn, Polissia, Chernihiv and Kharkiv. However, there is still a threat of missile attacks throughout Ukraine.

27.02	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The Russians continue to suffer losses. Therefore, in the temporarily occupied territories local infrastructure is actively used to provide medical care to its military personnel. For example, in the village of Kalanchak, a military hospital was set up on the basis of the local hospital. About 150 wounded servicemen of the Russian armed forces have been brought there. ➤ The Ukrainian Defense Forces aviation conducted 4 strikes on buildups of occupiers' personnel and military equipment. Also, the Ukrainian Armed Forces destroyed 9 out of 12 Iranian Shahed-136 strike UAVs and 1 Zala UAV.
28.02	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ On the night of February 27-28, Russians launched 14 UAVs. The drones were launched in waves and stretched out as long as possible. In this way, the enemy was attempting to achieve its tactical goal of depleting Ukrainian air defense. Ukrainian defenders destroyed 11 UAVs. ➤ In an interview with Army Inform, Lieutenant General Mykola Oleshchuk, Commander of the Air Force of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, says that since September, the Ukrainian military has destroyed more than 650 missiles and 610 Iranian UAVs. "We have received NASAMS, IRIS-T, Crotale anti-aircraft missile systems, Gepard anti-aircraft systems and other systems that are working effectively for our victory," he added. According to Mykola Oleshchuk, Ukraine will soon receive Patriot and SAMP/T-MAMBA anti-aircraft missile systems, which will significantly strengthen the country's air defense system. ➤ Vadym Skibitskyi, Deputy Chief of the Main Intelligence Directorate, said that Ukraine would be ready for a counteroffensive in the spring. "The specific moment depends on a number of factors, including the supply of Western weapons. One of the strategic goals will be to try to drive a wedge into the Russian front in the south between Crimea and mainland Russia. We will stop only when we restore the country to the borders of 1991," Skibitskyi said. ➤ In the settlements of Oleshky and Skadovsk, Kherson oblast, the Russian occupation 'authorities' are preparing to flee to the territory of the temporarily occupied Autonomous Republic of Crimea. On February 21, local collaborators left for Bakhchisarai, Simferopol, and Kerch, and on February 24, the occupiers announced the 'evacuation' to all comers. ➤ Ukrainian Defense Forces aviation carried out 3 strikes on the occupiers' buildups of forces. Rocket and artillery units hit a buildup of manpower and another one of enemy weapons and military equipment, as well as 2 positions of anti-aircraft missile systems. ➤ The next three months at the front will be very intense and decide the further course of events. Major General Kyrilo Budanov, Head of the Main Directorate of Intelligence of the Ministry of Defense of Ukraine, stated this in an interview with Voice of America. Here are the main points of the interview: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Russia failed to fulfill any of its strategic tasks. ➤ As of now, armaments are being supplied, but the pace and volumes are not sufficient for a turning point in the war. ➤ Each time the time between missile strikes increases, while the number of launched missiles decreases. ➤ In fact, Iran is the only country that exports relatively serious weapons to Russia. ➤ The exchange of prisoners of war continues, and about 2,000 people have already been returned. In the first days, the Russians captured 90% of all Ukrainian prisoners of war. About 40% of those held hostage are civilians. ➤ The Russian Federation clearly understands that, firstly, nuclear weapons are not weapons, but a means of strategic deterrence. Second: the use of a nuclear deterrent by anyone in the world will have fatal consequences for whoever does it. ➤ For Ukraine, the end of the war means, in the first stage, getting out to the 1991 border, and in the second stage, creating a safe zone around Ukraine at least 100 kilometers deep from the Russian side.
01.03	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Towards Vuhledar, Ukrainian soldiers record a decrease in the number of assaults by the occupiers. Oleksiy Dmytrashkiivskyi, Head of the United Press Center of the Tavriia region, stated this on the air of the telethon. "The enemy has somewhat reduced its activity for the fourth day in a row. Over the past day, invaders managed only 15 assault actions. If compared with monthly data, it was up to 60 assaults per day. Due to weather conditions, the Russians do not have the opportunity to actively use military equipment.,,

Losses of the Russian army from 27.02.2023 to 05.03.2023	
Liquidated personnel	4530
Tanks	35
IFVs	73
Artillery systems / MLRS	50/10
Anti-aircraft warfare systems	3
Aircraft / helicopters	2/1
UAVs	35
Ships/boats	0
Vehicles & fuel tanks	55
Special equipment	4

Military positions

01.03	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Analysts of the British Ministry of Defense believe that Russia has created a second site for launching Shahid drones - in the Bryansk oblast. Analysts came to this conclusion after the February 27 attacks, when Ukrainian air defense shot down 11 drones out of 14. Given the attack vector, these UAVs were most likely launched from the Bryansk oblast, while until now the only drone launch point was the Krasnodar region, and they were supposed to fly across the Sea of Azov. The second launch site will give the Russians another direction of attack, closer to Kyiv. Experts note that this will probably reduce the time the missile stays in the air and cause even more exhaustion to Ukrainian air defense. ➤ The Air Force of the Defense Forces carried out 16 strikes on buildups of personnel and military equipment of the occupiers, and an enemy unmanned aerial vehicle of the "Orlan-10" type was also shot down. Ukrainian units of rocket forces and artillery hit 1 enemy buildup, 2 ammunition depots, and 2 enemy radio-electronic warfare complexes.
03.03	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Near Yenakiieve, Donetsk oblast, anti-aircraft gunners of the Nikopol anti-aircraft missile regiment of the "East" Air Command destroyed a Russian Su-34 fighter-bomber. ➤ Ukrainian aviation made 14 strikes on buildups of personnel and military equipment of the occupiers, as well as 2 strikes on anti-aircraft missile systems at firing positions. Units of rocket forces and artillery, in turn, hit a control post, 3 buildups, an ammunition depot, 2 PMM depots, as well as a Russian electronic warfare station. ➤ Towards Bakhmut, under the cover of artillery, the Wagner mercenaries attacked a stronghold of the Ukrainian border guards. The defenders carried out a maneuver and began a shooting battle, repelling the enemy's attack. ➤ Towards Donetsk, Ukrainian border guards stopped an attempt to break through to one of the settlements. The border guards-mortars 'caught' the enemy's small rifle groups during their movement, and finally eliminated the attack aircraft with small arms.
04.03	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The Air Force of the Defense Forces made 12 strikes on buildups of personnel and military equipment of the occupiers, as well as 2 strikes on anti-aircraft missile systems and another strike on the enemy's ammunition depot.

Liquidated personnel	4530
Tanks	35
IFVs	73
Artillery systems / MLRS	50/10
Anti-aircraft warfare systems	3
Aircraft / helicopters	2/1
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Special equipment	4



✓ Over the past week, Russians launched **43 missiles and 179 air strikes**, and fired more than **518 MLRS attacks**.

Zaporizhzhia and Zaporizhzhia oblast

On the night of February 27, the occupiers fired S-300 missiles at Zaporizhzhia. One of the infrastructure facilities, namely the administrative building on Khortytsia Island, was damaged. On the night of March 2, a Russian missile hit a high-rise building in Zaporizhzhia. Several floors were destroyed. Debris and a blast wave damaged nearby houses. 20 people were evacuated, 13 killed, including an 8-month-old girl, who died with her family. 11 people were rescued. 8 are in hospitals, including a six-week pregnant woman. Rescue operations are ongoing. During the week, the Russians also attacked civilian infrastructure in Orikhiv, Huliaipole and Vasylivka regions. On March 4, Russians shelled the village of Mariivka in the Zaporizhzhia region. The houses were damaged. There were no casualties.

Mykolaiv oblast

Russians struck with MLRS outside of the Kutsurub community and along the coast of the community. The occupiers also attacked Ochakiv and the coast of the Ochakiv community. A medical facility and a kindergarten were damaged. There were no casualties.

Sumy oblast

Russians shelled 5 territorial communities of the oblast: Nova Sloboda, Bilopillia, Khotyn, Seredyno-Buda, and Sumy. A power line was damaged in the village of Stetskivka. A total of 30 hits were recorded. The invaders also fired mortars at the border of the oblast near the village of Starikove. There were no casualties.

Donetsk oblast

On the night of February 28, Russians shelled Svyatohirsk, hitting a unit of the State Emergency Service - 1 rescuer was killed and 4 others injured. The shelling continues along the entire front line. Volnovakha is under fire as well as Vuhledar, Novoukrainka, Bohoiavlenka and Velyka Novosilka.

Towards Donetsk, air strikes and artillery are affecting the Kurakhivka community, Hirnyk, Hostre, Kurakhivka, Marinka and Ocheretyne communities, Avdiivka, Lastochkyne, Tonenke, Orlivka, Krasnohorivka, Ocheretyne, Maryinka, Novomykhailivka, Kostyantynivka, Severne, Heorhiivka. Administrative buildings, private houses, shops, and a church were damaged.

Towards Horlivka, Kostyantynivka, Predtechine, Bakhmut, Vasiukivka, Chasiv Yar, Toretsk, Chasovoyarsk and Soledar communities, Niu York, Pivnichne, Orikhovo-Vasylivka, Dubovo-Vasylivka, Fedorivka, and Rozdolivka were shelled. High-rise buildings, houses, a kindergarten, and shops were damaged.

Towards Lysychansk, Siversk, and the outskirts of the community, Torske and Zarichne of the Lyman community, and the outskirts of the Zvanivka community were shelled. Private houses were damaged. There are killed and injured civilians in all directions.

Kherson and Kherson oblast

Over the past week, the occupiers fired more than 400 times from MLRS, mortars, artillery, tanks, UAVs, and aircraft at Kherson oblast - 48 people were injured (including a one-year-old baby), 1 killed. Twenty-five settlements in the oblast were affected: shells hit residential areas, private and apartment buildings, and a school. On February 27, Russians fired mortars at residential areas of Oleshky in the occupied Kherson oblast and accused the Ukrainian Armed Forces of doing it. Thus, the Russians continue their campaign to discredit the Ukrainian Defense Forces and intimidate the locals. On March 2, Russians attacked the Beryslav region of the Kherson oblast with drones when people were standing in a queue for humanitarian aid near a school. 9 people were injured, including a child. Civilian infrastructure was damaged.

Khmelnysky

On the night of February 27, Russians conducted three drone strikes on Khmelnytskyi. As a result of the attack, 2 employees of the State Emergency Service were killed in the line of duty and four were injured. Residential buildings were damaged.

Kharkiv and Kharkiv oblast

During the week, settlements in Kharkiv, Kupiansk (2 killed, 1 injured), Chuhuiv and Bohodukhiv regions came under fire. An administrative building in the village of Kindrashivka, Kupiansk region, was damaged by an MLRS attack. In Kupiansk, an administrative building, a medical facility, and private houses were destroyed, and an agricultural enterprise and a grain storage facility were damaged. Due to the intensity of the shelling, the evacuation was announced in the area. A multi-story building was damaged in Chuhuiv. A 52-year-old man and a 13-year-old boy were wounded, the boy was treated on the spot and the man was hospitalized.

Dnipropetrovsk oblast

Russians continue to terrorize civilians in the Dnipropetrovsk oblast. Nikopol, Marhanets, and Chervonohryhorivka (2 killed civilians) communities are under heavy artillery fire. A hotel, private houses, multi-story buildings, outbuildings, cars, a kindergarten boiler room, several shops, a pharmacy, and garages were damaged. Power lines were cut and the water supply system was damaged.

Poltava oblast

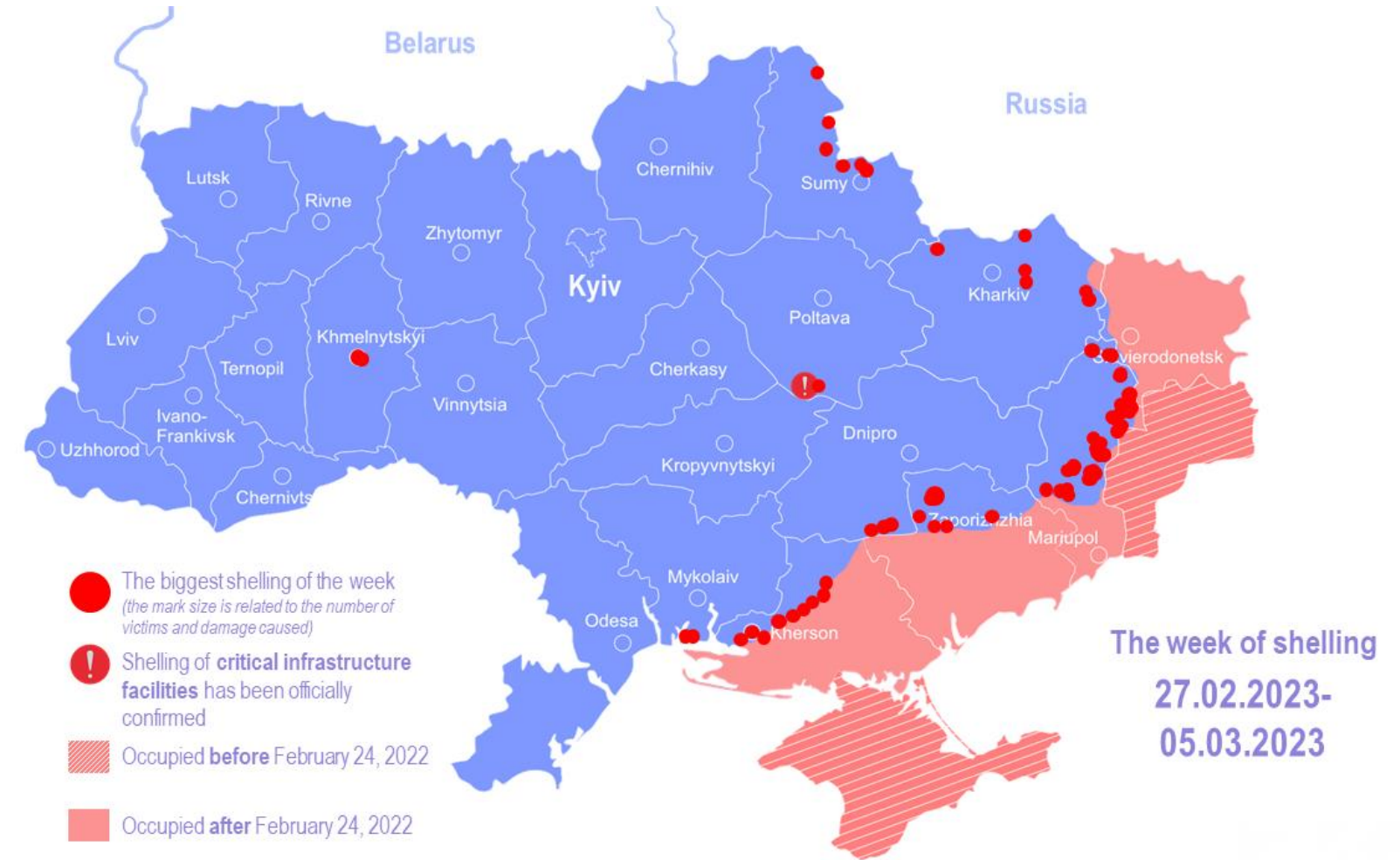
On March 1, Russians attacked civilian and critical infrastructure in the Kremenchuk region. There were no casualties.

This week shelling and strikes

Zaporizhzhia oblast



Kharkiv oblast



Donetsk oblast

Humanitarian crisis



02.03

- The **Kupiansk** community in Kharkiv Oblast has initiated the **mandatory evacuation** of families with children and people with limited mobility. The Regional Military Administration justifies this decision with the **unstable security situation** and Russian troops' constant **shelling** of the community.
- Russians have introduced "**cadet classes**" in many schools in the occupied Kherson region, the General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine reports. In such schools, students, including first-graders, have to wear uniforms, and "**patriotic**" education classes are held. Due to the shortage of teachers, pro-Russian locals without a pedagogical education are being hired.

01.03

- In the Manhush region of the temporarily occupied territory of Donetsk oblast, **Russians are limiting the supply of electricity** to residents' homes. According to the Ukrainian military command, the Russian occupation administration is completely **blocking all local farmers from selling grain** on both domestic and foreign markets. Unofficially, the occupiers have also banned all local bakeries from accepting grain from farmers.
- About **4,500 civilians**, including 48 children, still **remain in Bakhmut**, which has been destroyed by more than 60 percent as a result of the fighting.
- According to the **IAEA** press service, international observers near the temporarily occupied Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant recorded **detonations and sounds of artillery shelling**, IAEA Director General Rafael Grossi expressed his concern: "*This is an alarming trend that demonstrates the urgency and importance of establishing a **nuclear safety and security zone at the Zaporizhzhia NPP.***"
- According to Mykola Povoroznyk, First Deputy Head of the Kyiv City State Administration, the "**Points of Invincibility**" in Kyiv were not in great demand during the winter season, with only a few thousand people visiting them, which is a positive trend.
- According to Ukrainian online retailer Rozetka, **demand for charging stations** has **increased thirty-fold** over the year of full-scale war. The most popular product in February 2023 was cables and adapters.

28.02

- More than **10,600 war-damaged objects** have already been **restored** in Kyiv Oblast.
- Denys Shmyhal, Prime Minister of Ukraine, says **Ukraine has passed the most difficult period of the heating season**: "*Ukraine has won not only the battle for heat but also the battle for light. **For 17 days** in a row, there has been **no power shortage** in the energy grid, and it is not expected to occur in the near future unless there is a massive missile attack.*"
- One in three **Ukrainian refugees** feel part of the community in the **host country**, and the same number would like to return to Ukraine. Only one-third of refugees have **paid jobs**, and 79% say they face **economic hardship**.

04.03

- **The Ministry of Economy** of Ukraine has predicted that **inflation will accelerate** shortly due to the country's economic recovery and increased consumer demand, according to the Ministry's inflation report. The report notes that the significant destruction of infrastructure facilities, closure of enterprises, and ongoing Russian terror, primarily against civilians, have caused an imbalance in the economy.
- The Prosecutor's Office is investigating **171 cases of sexual violence** committed by the Russian military **against Ukrainians**, said Olena Zelenska. Among the victims are 39 men, and **13 are minors**. "*We only know about these cases because these people discovered the strength necessary to speak out. We do not know how many are suffering in silence, especially in the occupied territories,*" she added.

03.03

- At night, the occupiers damaged the main bridge connecting Bakhmut with the neighboring village of Khromove with a missile. This **bridge is vital for the evacuation** of residents and the **transportation of goods**, including ammunition. The bridge is expected to be repaired in the coming days.
- In the Svatove region of Luhansk Oblast, the occupation authorities have **disconnected ATMs**, making it **impossible** for people to **receive pensions** and other social benefits. Instead, they have been offered to receive money in cash on certain days. However, not everyone can do this, especially the elderly.
- According to Deputy Minister of Justice Olena Vysotska, **Ukraine spends 10,000 UAH (~270\$)** per month to **maintain one Russian prisoner of war**. This amount includes the costs of running the camp, taxes, salaries, and utilities.

02.03

- According to the Prosecutor General's Office of Ukraine, the **bodies of two men tortured** by the occupiers were **exhumed in Kherson Oblast**. "*A cursory examination of the tortured men revealed signs of numerous injuries, including broken ribs,*" the statement said.
- Since the beginning of the war, **800 businesses have been relocated** with support from the government due to dangerous conditions in certain regions.

