

#UkraineWeekly

March 20, 2026

Figures of the week

- 12 years ago, on March 16, 2014, Russia staged a sham and illegal "referendum" at gunpoint held by Russian military forces in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol | [Statement of the MFA of Ukraine](#).

Ukraine-Türkiye

- [Statement by the Turkish Foreign Ministry](#) regarding the twelfth anniversary of the illegal annexation of Crimea.

Foreign Policy

- Address by President Zelenskyy to participants of the [European Council meeting](#).
- In Madrid, President Zelenskyy met with [King Felipe VI](#), [Prime Minister of Spain](#) Pedro Sánchez and the [Presidents of Both Chambers](#) of the Spanish Cortes Generales.
- In London, President Zelenskyy met with [King Charles III](#), [Prime Minister of the United Kingdom](#) Keir Starmer, [NATO Secretary General](#) Mark Rutte and [addressed the UK Parliament](#).
- Ukraine-UK enhanced [security and defence industrial collaboration](#) declaration.
- In London, President Zelenskyy, Prime Minister of the UK Keir Starmer, and NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte held a [joint meeting in a trilateral format](#).
- President [Zelenskyy held a phone conversation with the new President](#) of Portugal António José Seguro.
- Ukraine [initiated EU Entry Ban](#) and sanctions against nearly 130 Russian commanders who committed crimes against Ukrainians.
- In Paris, [President Zelenskyy and French President Emmanuel Macron](#) discussed the situation in the Middle East, the strengthening sanctions against Russia, and increasing support for Ukraine.
- In Romania, President [Zelenskyy met with Ukrainian service members](#) training at the European F-16 Training Center.
- President Zelenskyy and President of Romania Nicușor Dan signed documents between Ukraine and Romania on establishing a [strategic partnership](#).
- President [Zelenskyy and the Prime Minister of Romania Ilie Bolojan](#) discussed defense support and energy cooperation.

Home and Frontline

- Total [Russian combat losses since February 24, 2022](#), to 20 March 2026: in personnel – 1,285,700, tanks – 11,789, ACV – 24,254, artillery system – 38,569.
- Ukraine's air defenses shot down [133 out of 156](#) Russian drones launched since evening.
- Russian drone strike [damaged two commercial grain vessels](#) in Odesa, threatening global food security.
- [Russia's shadow fleet](#) is a growing threat in the Baltic Sea. Can Europe Stop It?

Learn more

Who is [Lina Kostenko](#)? A Ukrainian poet who turns 96 — and whose verses about identity, resistance, and the cost of freedom have never felt more urgent. Long celebrated at home and largely unknown abroad, she is the writer Ukraine turns to in its darkest hours. This is her story — and in many ways, the story of Ukraine itself.

