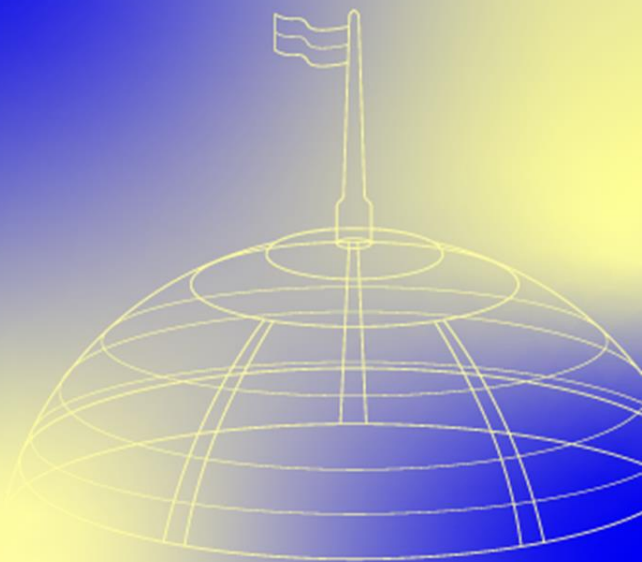
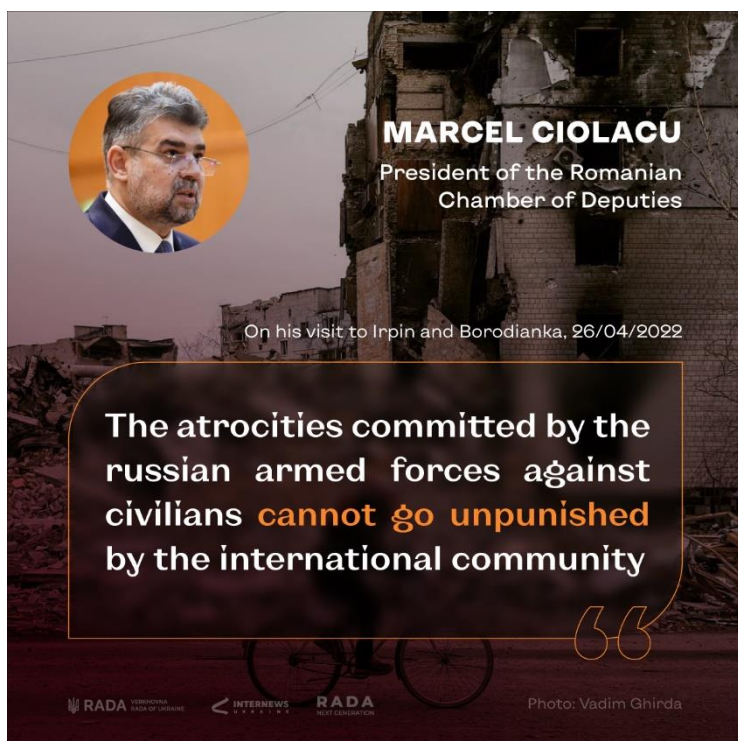




● Internews Ukraine ● RADA: Next Generation ●
Information Department of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine Secretariat

INFO DIGEST Parliaments on the Frontline

Nº 41 April, 27



MARCEL CIOLACU
President of the Romanian Chamber of Deputies

On his visit to Irpin and Borodianska, 26/04/2022

The atrocities committed by the russian armed forces against civilians *cannot go unpunished* by the international community

Photo: Vadim Ghinda

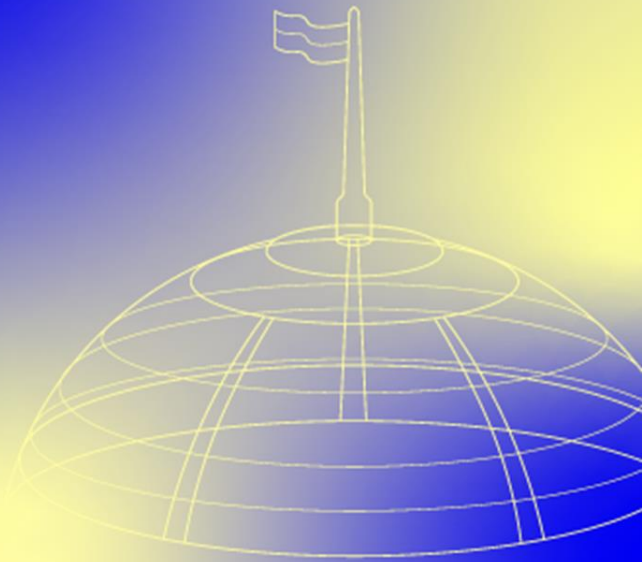
You received this digest because your support as a Parliamentarian, a Politician, and an Opinion-maker is crucial to Ukraine during Russia's outrageous attack on its sovereignty and the fundamental principles of a democratic society. This communication aims to deliver the latest developments in connection with the war to members of the world's Parliaments, amplify the voices of Ukrainian MPs, document crimes against humanity perpetrated by Russian invaders, and highlight international solidarity and support for Ukraine by other Parliamentarians.

We urge all representatives of democratic nations to support decisions in favor of the increased humanitarian, financial, and military assistance to Ukraine. We also call for immediate approval of the strictest possible sanctions on the Russian Federation. #StandWithUkraine and protect the global democratic order!

WAR CRIME WATCH:



- Around [400 rape cases](#) have so far been registered and reported by Ukraine's Ombudsperson Liudmyla Denysova. The victims of rape include both children and adults.
- It has become known that only on the day of April 25, a total of 474 persons were taken from Mariupol to a ["filtration" camp](#), including 69 children.
- According to the Ministry of Defense of the UK, the majority of russian airstrikes in Mariupol are likely being conducted using [unguided free-falling bombs](#), which increases the risk of civilian casualties.

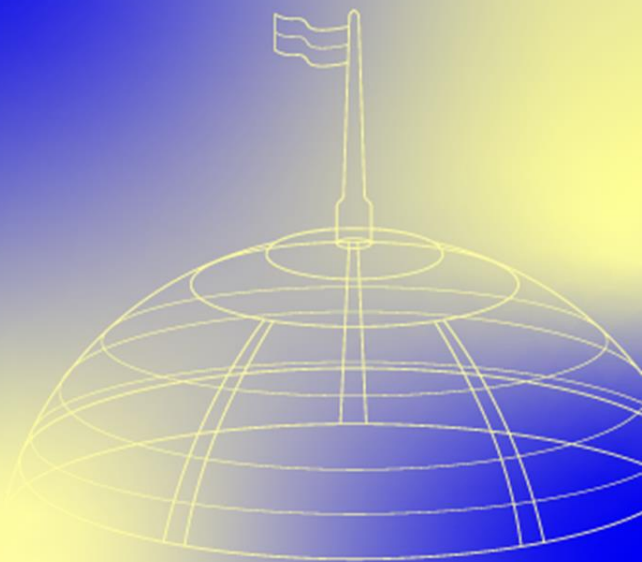


- As a result of an [airstrike on Huliaipole](#) in the Zaporizhzhia region, a number of residential buildings were damaged and three people were wounded. Russian missiles were also launched [at Spasivka and Vasylivka](#).
- In Melitopol, Russian military is [blocking humanitarian corridors](#), not allowing civilians to evacuate nor volunteers to deliver food and medical supplies to the city.
- The entire territory of the [Luhansk region is still under fire airstrikes and artillery](#). Over the past 24 hours, seven houses have been destroyed there and many more were damaged. In Pryvillia, a [local resident was killed](#). In Hirske, [yet another person died](#) due to an airstrike. In Severodonetsk, a [hospital was damaged due to shelling](#), with one more civilian having died.
- Avdiivka, which is in the Donetsk region, was reportedly [shelled twice with white phosphorous](#).
- Three persons were killed and 15 more sustained injuries due to the [shelling of the Kharkiv region](#).
- The Russian forces are [continuously firing mortars at the border villages](#) in the Sumy region from the territory of the Russian Federation.
- In temporarily occupied Kherson, the Russian military dispersed a peaceful demonstration, [using stun grenades and tear gas and injuring four people](#).
- Russians [are smuggling museum pieces](#) from Mariupol to the so-called "DNR", from where they transport them to the territory of Russia. The advisor to the mayor of Mariupol reported on April 27 that Russian soldiers [stole the original paintings of world-famous artists](#) Arkhip Kuindzhi and Ivan Aivazovsky.

REACTIONS IN THE PARLIAMENTS GLOBALLY:

PACE

On April 27, at the debate on the consequences of Russian aggression in Ukraine in the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, the participants made speeches in support of Ukraine.



[Max Lucks, a member of the German Parliament](#), pointed out that Russia was not the only victim of World War II and promised to support the provision of heavy weapons to Ukraine at the vote in Bundestag.

[Italy's President Sergio Mattarella](#) stated it is the responsibility of the international community to stop the proliferation of violence lest it wants to be "overwhelmed".

[Kimmo Kiljunen, a former member of the Parliament of Finland](#), claimed that Ukraine's victory is certain, given that the biggest "threat" to Russia's authoritarian regime is a democratic and Europeanized neighbor, which is what Ukraine is now.

EU

The European Parliament called for an immediate pan-European embargo on Kremlin-controlled energy supplies in response to Gazprom's decision to suspend gas supplies to Poland and Bulgaria.

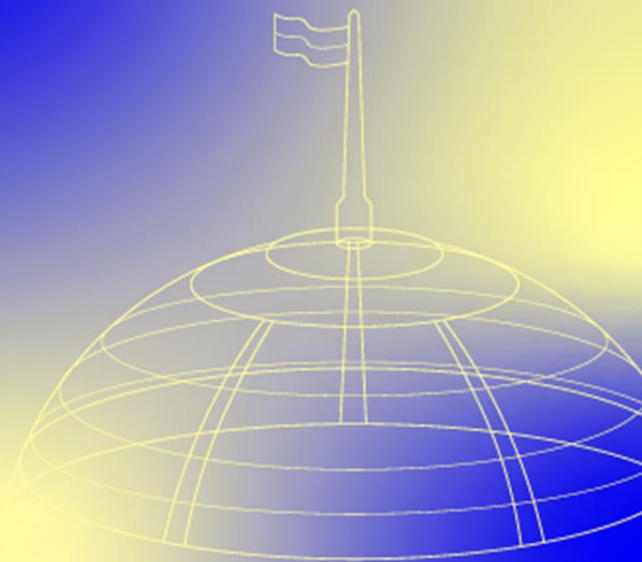
A relevant statement was made [on Twitter](#) by President of the European Parliament Roberta Metsola, who also said that the EU "will not be blackmailed" and is "not afraid of Putin".

ROMANIA

On April 26, Romanian parliamentarians [traveled to Ukraine](#) as members of a delegation led by Romanian Prime Minister Nicolae Ciuca to visit the country's capital and the cities of Irpin and Borodianka. This was the first high-level visit from Romania to Ukraine since the start of the Russian invasion.

The delegation met with Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky and Prime Minister Denys Shmyhal to discuss the effects of the war on the Ukrainian economy and ways to support the export of agricultural products from Ukraine through Romanian ports. Officials also discussed the support for Ukrainian refugees and humanitarian aid.

Marcel Ciolacu, President of the Chamber of Deputies of Romania, mentioned his country's strong support for Ukraine's aspirations to join the EU and affirmed that



Romania aims to get heavily involved in the reconstruction of Ukrainian cities after the end of the war.

CANADA

Marty Morantz, a member of the House of Commons of Canada, [stated in a column](#) for Winnipeg Free Press that he has “never seen MPs of all political stripes so unified over a single issue”, as the parliament is now “united in opposition to russia’s unwarranted and horrific aggression in Ukraine”.

He mentioned that the support that Canada extends to Ukraine along with its allies has so far included financial and humanitarian aid, ammunition and lethal weapons supplies, training of over 30,000 Ukrainian soldiers, wide-ranging economic sanctions against russia, and freezing of russian oligarchs’ assets. Morantz believes that Canada should also waive the visa requirements “for those fleeing Ukraine in search of safe harbor”.

GEORGIA

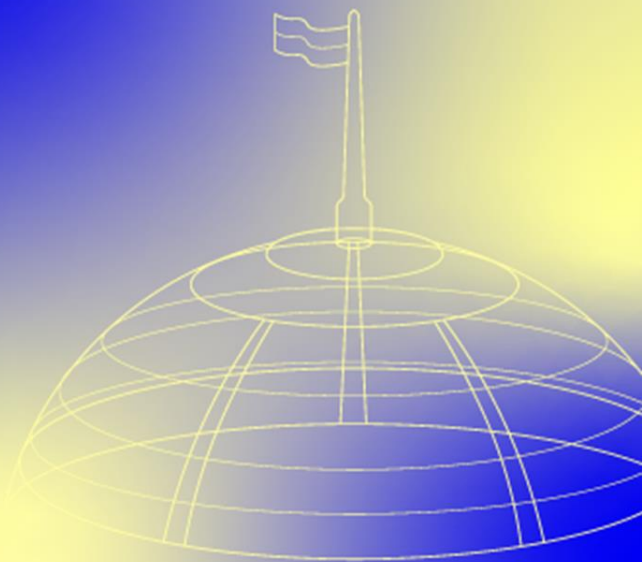
Nika Melia, chairman of the opposition United National Movement party, announced at a briefing on April 26 that the party will submit to the Parliament of Georgia a [draft resolution on the recognition of the genocide in Ukraine](#).

According to Melia, this resolution will serve as a political assessment of whether the trace of atrocities committed in Kyiv suburbs has convinced the representatives of the ruling Georgian party that there really is genocide in Ukraine.

LATVIA

In an [interview to BNN](#), Inese Vaidere, a member of the European Parliament from Latvia, called russia out for pretending to participate in peace talks with Ukraine and for idle threats to launch World War III.

The MEP believes that peace negotiations with russia can be effective only if russians understand they have lost and there is no other way out. As for russia’s foreign minister sergei lavrov’s words about the threat of WWII, Vaidere noted that intimidation is the



method and direction which is widely employed in russian policy. She believes it also can be a “signal that russians understand they will not be able to win against Ukraine” as they are “trying to play their last hand”, and that the West should not fear those threats.

The parliamentarian also commented on the issue of sanctions, saying that much tougher sanctions must be imposed against oligarchs and russian citizens who support the war. She endorsed the position of the US authorities who seek to undertake all the necessary measures “to make sure russia is unable to continue and win the war”.

ITALY

Giuseppe Conte, head of the Five Star Movement (5SM), which is the largest party in the Italian parliament, [spoke against sending weapons to Ukraine without prior reporting to the parliament](#).

After Defence Minister Lorenzo Guerini mentioned on April 26 that a government decree to send Italian arms to Ukraine is “currently being processed”, Conte called on him and Prime Minister Mario Draghi “to refer to parliament on weapons it intends to send to Ukraine”, adding that members of his party “are against military aid that is not defensive in logic”.

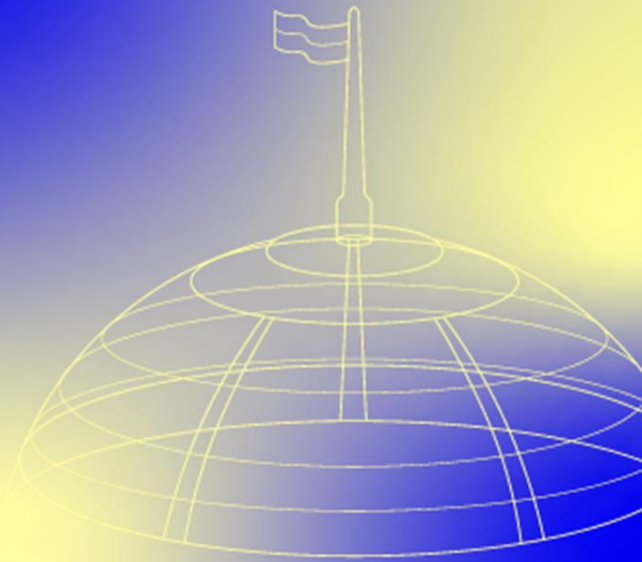
While 5SM has condemned the russian invasion of Ukraine, it is also known for rejecting what it calls “further military escalation” and opposing any sort of “military intervention”.

UKRAINE’S PARLIAMENT:

VRU Speaker R. Stefanchuk called on the international community to facilitate the investigation of crimes committed by russia

In his recent [interview](#) with Holos Ukrainy newspaper, Ruslan Stefanchuk called on the world to recognize russia’s actions in Ukraine as genocide.

He emphasized that the adopted declaration “On the Genocide Committed by the Russian Federation in Ukraine” is not about politics, and Ukraine does not need just a political declaration. Speaking about the declaration, he noted that the Parliament had formed it as a legal component, especially for the International Criminal Court (ICC).



During the meeting with Karim Khan, the prosecutor of the aforementioned international court, Ruslan Stefanchuk provided the ICC with an English-language version of it.

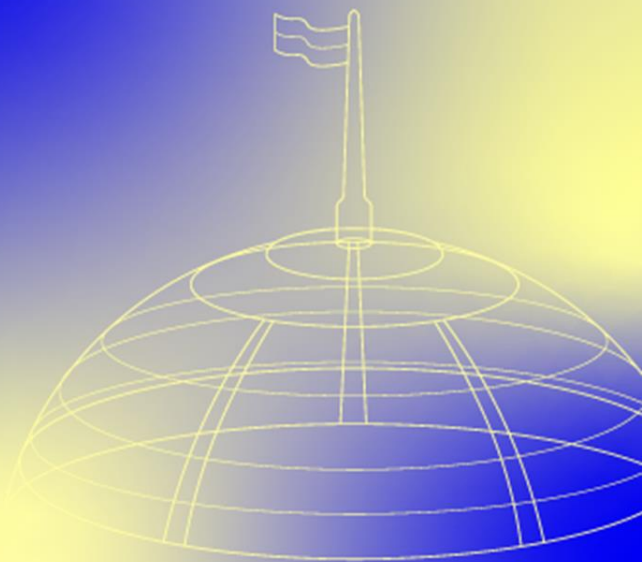
“We call on the international community to facilitate the investigation of the crimes of the Russian Federation to ensure that the organizers and perpetrators of these crimes are inevitably punished”, he said. He also noted that proving the genocide is very scrupulous, but the Parliament mobilizes all efforts to provide the government with instruments needed to conduct effective investigation.

Ukraine’s MP Maria Mezentseva in the Council of Europe: we might have 15 “Chornobyls” in the future

On April 27, Maria Mezentseva, Chairwoman of the Ukrainian delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, delivered her [speech](#) during debate on Russian aggression in the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe.

Main points of her speech:

- people in besieged Mariupol live in horrific conditions
- a great number of Russian staff that continue working in the Council of Europe institutions even after Russia is excluded from the organization
- we might have 15 “Chornobyls” in the future, because 15 nuclear power reactors are working in Ukraine and they all are threatened by Russian missiles
- lawyers and politicians world-wide shall stop calling Russian invasion a conflict, this a war of aggression as it is written in previous resolution of the Parliamentary Assembly
- we need more sanctions, more weapons and more solidarity to support Ukraine.



The Program together with the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine is conducting an information campaign urging on the world community to close the skies over Ukraine.

[At these links](#) you will find visual materials that can be shared on social networks with the hashtag:

#StopRussianAggression
#CloseTheSkyoverUkraine
#StopPutin

Do not be indifferent, help us defend our country, Europe and the democratic values of the entire civilized world!

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