

Flash note  
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## Last minute on the Ukraine crisis - Military, Sactions & Political fields

### Facts from the military field

- Russian mechanized forces that had entered Ukraine through Belarus are about less than 30 kilometers from Kyiv.
- Explosions across Kyiv at dawn continue. Kyiv is being attacked with cruise and ballistic missiles. Ukraine's foreign minister decried the "horrific Russian rocket strikes on Kyiv". "Kyiv hasn't experienced anything like this since 1941 Nazi attack".
- 137 Ukrainian soldiers have been killed since Russian invasion began (Zelensky says).
- 800 casualties on Russian forces since the invasion began (Ukrainian Defense Ministry). It was not immediately clear whether the ministry was referring solely to the number killed. He also said "more than 30 Russian tanks had been destroyed, as well as seven Russian aircraft and six helicopters."

### Sanctions

- EU announces new "maximum impact" sanctions on Russia targeting Russia's financial sector, energy sector, transport sectors, visa policy, export controls and export bans.
  - Financial system: Sanctions are now targeting 70% of the Russian banking market, and we expect they will affect 100% soon. Key state-owned companies are also targeted. The sanctions will increase Russia's borrowing costs, raise inflation and "gradually erode Russia's industrial base,"
  - Connectivity: An export ban will also hit Russia's oil sector, and ban the sale of all aircraft spare parts and equipment to Russian airlines, hitting a key sector of Russia's economy and the country's connectivity.
  - Technology: The sanctions will limit Russia's access to crucial technology.
  - Elites (businessmen & politicians): Russian elites will see cut off their deposits so that they cannot hide their money anymore in safe havens in Europe.
  - Ursula von der Leyen (European Commission President): "The sanctions will have maximum impact on the Russian economy".
- US Sanctions: GOP lawmakers call for stronger sanctions against Russia.
  - Republicans want to send a clear signal to Biden that he would have bipartisan support if he were to move ahead with more punitive measures.
  - Republicans are calling on Biden to enact immediate, stronger sanctions against Russia for its incursion into Ukraine.

- House Foreign Affairs Committee, House Armed Services and House Intelligence Committee said in a joint statement that they were "committed to enacting the strongest possible sanctions and export controls to cripple Russia's ability to make war.
- Japan to impose a range of sanctions on Russian interests.
- Australia announces new sanctions against Russia.
- Taiwán imposes sanctions to Russia.
- New Zealand imposes travel and export bans against Russia

### Political sphere

- Macron was the first major Western leader to speak with Russian President Vladimir Putin after Russian military actions began. They spoke but Macron admitted **the phone call didn't achieve much**, "since the Russian President has chosen war."
- French President says he's ready to broker a ceasefire, accuses Putin of "**duplicity**": Macron noted last night that he and other European leaders had been discussing with Putin "the details of the implementation of the Minsk agreements" just hours before the Russian President launched the operation.
- Secretary of State Antony Blinken said he thinks the war will be a "**bloody mess**" for Russia but warned it could take a while.