



E.U. Policies regarding Ukraine conflict.

ANALYSIS OF HUNGARY AND SLOVAKIA POSITIONS

Background

DATE	SPEAKER	STATEMENT
February 24, 2022	Vladimir Putin	Announced military operation in
February 24, 2022	Volodymyr Zelenskyy	Called for international support
February 25, 2022	NATO	Condemned the invasion and pledged defense
February 26, 2022	EU	Sanctioned Russia and showed support for Ukraine

As the days went by, it was demonstrated that the response of the Ukrainian army had previously been underestimated by Russian strategists, thus foreseeing a long conflict, contrary to the assumption of a short one.

First Block - E.U. Policies regarding Ukraine conflict.

1.1 COMMISSION RESPONSE



The European Union steps up once more its support for Ukraine and the sanctions against the aggressor – Putin's Russia.

Ursula Von der Leyen ,President of the EU Commision on February 27, 2022

- **DOZENS** of Decisions, Regulations, and Directive

- Temporary Protection Directive
- Macro-Financial Assistance
- Coordination Platforms
- ...

Von der Leyen has been one of the main driving forces behind Europe's backing of Ukraine



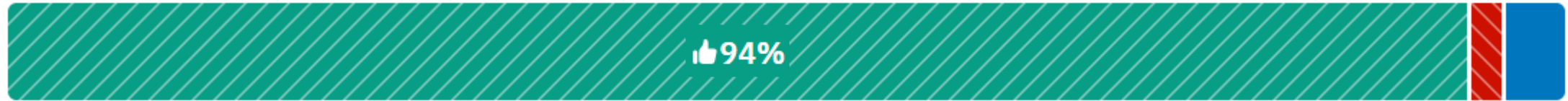
First Block - E.U. Policies regarding Ukraine conflict.

1. 2 PARLAMIEN RESPONSE



2019-2024 Legislature

- Resolution on the Russian Aggression Against Ukraine (*March 1, 2022*)



For: 637. Against: 13. Abstentions: 26. In total, 676 MEPs voted. 29 MEPs didn't vote.

Over the following months, the Parliament adopted further resolutions that went from political condemnation to a more direct stance against Putin's government

Resolution on recognizing the Russian Federation as a state sponsor of terrorism
(*November 23 of 2022*)

 **83%**

Resolution on the establishment of a tribunal on the crime of aggression against Ukraine
(*January 26 of 2023*)

 **90%**

Resolution on Russia's undemocratic presidential elections and their illegitimate extension to the occupied territories
(*November 23 of 2022*)

 **94%**

First Block - E.U. Policies regarding Ukraine conflict.

1. 2 PARLAMIEN RESPONSE



2019-2024 Legislature

Additional resolutions to maintain economic and political support for Ukraine

- Resolution on One Year of Russia's Invasion and War of Aggression Against Ukraine (February 16, 2023)



For: 444. Against: 26. Abstentions: 37. In total, 507 MEPs voted. 198 MEPs didn't vote.

One year later, **support decrease (-5%)**

- Resolution on the need for unwavering EU support for Ukraine, after two years of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine (February 29, 2024)



For: 451. Against: 46. Abstentions: 49. In total, 546 MEPs voted. 159 MEPs didn't vote.

First Block - E.U. Policies regarding Ukraine conflict.

1. 2 PARLAMIEN RESPONSE



2024-2029 Legislature !

- Resolution on the need for the EU's continuous support for Ukraine (July 17, 2024)



For: 495. Against: 137. Abstentions: 47. In total, 679 MEPs voted. 40 MEPs didn't vote.

- Continued financial and military support to Ukraine by EU member states (September 19, 2024)



For: 425. Against: 131. Abstentions: 63. In total, 619 MEPs voted. 98 MEPs didn't vote.

Decrease in parliamentary support for Ukraine in the new legislature



Source: [HowTheyVote.eu](https://www.howtheyvote.eu)



First Block - E.U. Policies regarding Ukraine conflict.

1. 2 PARLAMIEN RESPONSE

→ Scale of support for Ukraine from political groups on Resolutions



1.3 MEMBER STATES DIPLOMATIC RESPONSE



The European Union steps up once more its support for Ukraine and the sanctions against the aggressor – Putin's Russia.

Ursula Von der Layen ,President of the EU Commision on February 27, 2022

First Block - E.U. Policies regarding Ukraine conflict.

1.3 MEMBER STATES DIPLOMATIC RESPONSE

FRANCE



Feb 2022

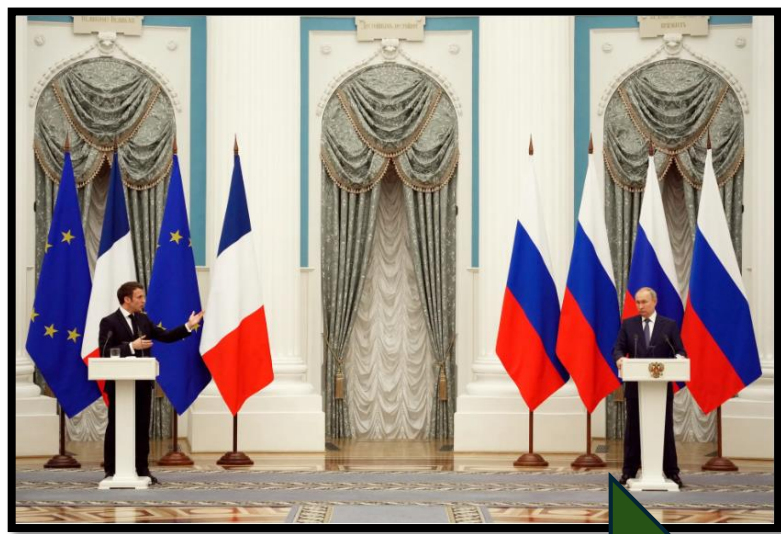
July 2023

Legislative Election JUNE 24

PACIFICATION WITH RUSSIA

DIPLOMATIC CONFRONTATION

DIRECT CONFRONTATION



- Most outspoken European leaders critical of Putin's actions.
- Reinforced economic sanctions on Moscow,
- First leaders to visit Kyiv.

- Shipment of long-range SCALP missiles
- **Proposal to send ground troops to Ukraine**

DIPLOMATIC APPROACH



Reason behind ?



First Block - E.U. Policies regarding Ukraine conflict.

1.3 MEMBER STATES DIPLOMATIC RESPONSE

GERMANY

Feb 2022



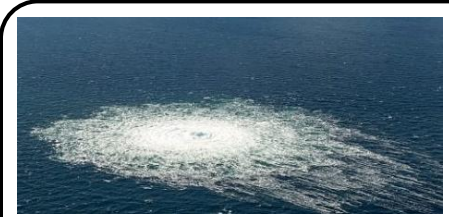
SPD + BÜNDNIS 90 DIE GRÜNEN + Freie Demokraten FDP

- Weak Scholz leadership
- Ideological tensions
- Early elections 2025 !

STRATEGIC RELATION WITH RUSSIA



SUSPENSION OF THE PROJECT



September 2022
Nord Stream Sabotage

100-billion-euro investment in military capabilities

The largest in its history.



ENERGY PRICE INCREASE = RECONSIDERATION OF GREEN POLICIES

Stop of phase out nuclear energy

Reactivating coal plants

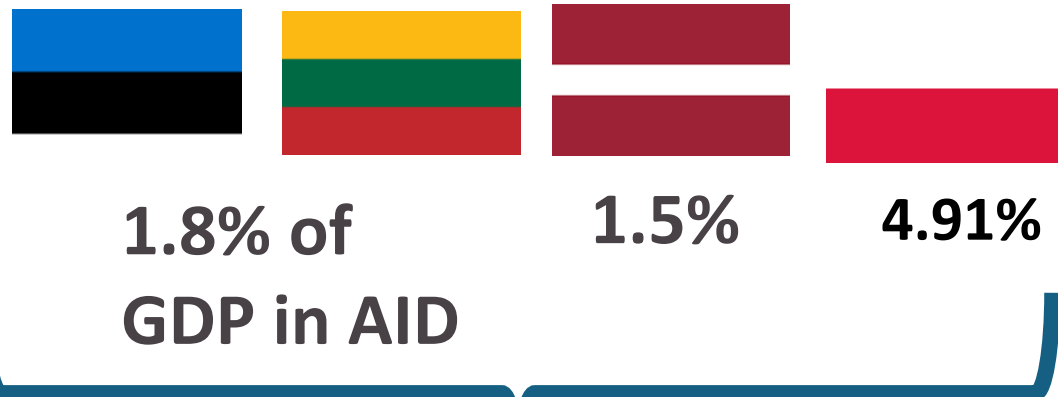
PRAGMATISM OVER IDEOLOGY

First Block - E.U. Policies regarding Ukraine conflict.

1.3 MEMBER STATES DIPLOMATIC RESPONSE

BALTIC STATES AND POLAND

MOST SUPPORTIVE STATES TO UKRAINE



- Military AID
- Institutional AID
- Refugee assistance

Strategic investment
in their own defense
and regional stability

SPAIN AND ITALY

Slow BUT Steady, in their support

- Strong political support
- Strong European alignment (Spain mostly)
- But, more cautious in military matters

Reasons?

COALITION GOVERNMENTS IN BOTH
Spain with far left and Italy with far right

INTERNAL PRIORITIES

DO THEY REALLY WANT THE UKRANIAN
MEMBERSHIP?

Second Block – Aid Reluctance. Hungarian and Slovakian positions.

SLOVAKIA

SEP 2023
(Parl. elections)

PRO UKRAINE GOVERNMENT

ROBERT FICO GOVERNMENT



Eduard Heger

Prime Minister (2021-2023)

HNUTIE SLOVENSKO

- Center right
- Pro E.U

STRONG VOICE OF SUPPORT FOR UKRAINE



Robert Fico

Prime Minister (2006-2010)
(2012-2018)
(2023-)



Support to Ukraine

GOV COMPOSITION



NATIONALIST LEFT



EXTR. RIGHT

Expelled from S&D

WHY?

PERSONAL VENDETTA AGAINST KIEV?

- ➔ 2009 Russia–Ukraine gas dispute
- ↳ Direct impact in SLVK

ENERGY DEPENDENCE

- ➔ Economic Pressure

POLITICAL STANCES

Second Block – Aid Reluctance. Hungarian and Slovakian positions.

SLOVAKIA

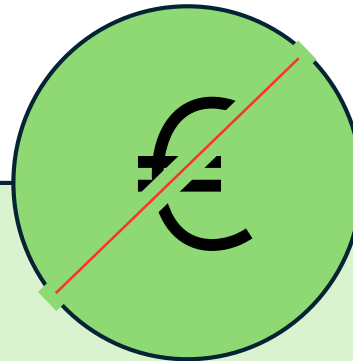
HOW HAVE THEY HARMED UKRAINE'S POSITION?



STOPPING MILITARY AID

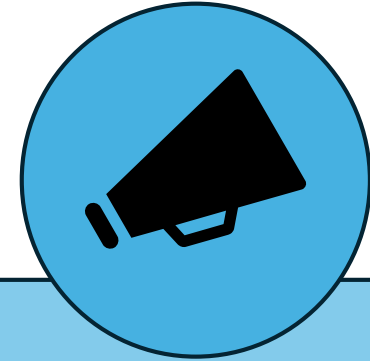
"I will not support any military aid to Ukraine. An immediate ceasefire is the best solution for the country. The EU should transition from being an arms supplier to acting as a peacemaker. "

ROBERT FICO



OPPOSING SANCTIONS

Hungary has used its rotating presidency of the Council to slow down the imposition of new sanctions on Russia.



CRITICIZING UKRAINE'S POTENTIAL NATO MEMBERSHIP

Robert Fico has stated that he will oppose any attempts by Ukraine to join the alliance, viewing it as a scenario that could significantly increase the risk of triggering World War III.

Second Block – Aid Reluctance. Hungarian and Slovakian positions.

HUNGARY



Viktor Orban

Prime Minister (1998-2002)
(2010-)

**STRONGEST
OPPOSER TO
AID UKRAINE**

REASONS?

European Parliament



Until 2021



***Patriots
for Europe***

FIDESZ

EXTR. RIGHT

- MID EUROESCEPTISM
- ANTIGLOBALISM

ECONOMY

Energy dependence on Russia

Very dependent on natural gas, oil
and nuclear fuel



**BAD RELATIONS
WITH KIEV**

Hungarian minority in Ukraine

Orban thinks that the Hungarians
living in the region of Transcarpathia
have seen their linguistic rights
attacked by Kiev.

POLITICS

Political pragmatism?

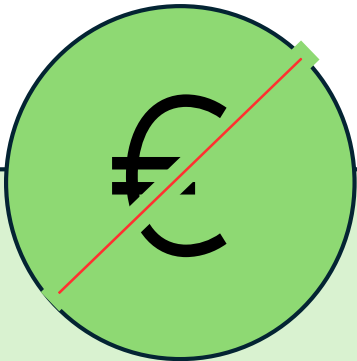
Orban as a peacekeeper

Political ties with Putin?

Second Block – Aid Reluctance. Hungarian and Slovakian positions.

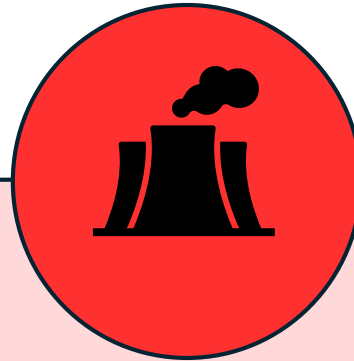
HUNGARY

HOW HAVE THEY HARMED UKRAINE'S POSITION?



HALT ON THE E.U. SANCTIONS

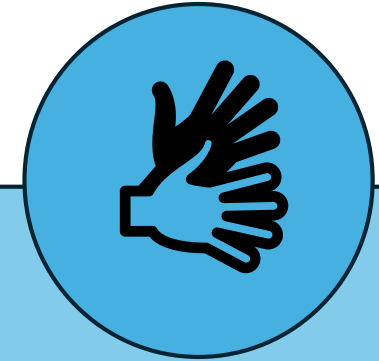
Hungary has used its rotating presidency of the Council to slow down the imposition of new sanctions on Russia.



ENERGY CONTRACTS WITH RUSSIAN COMPANIES



ROSATOM



MEETINGS WITH PUTIN

He has held several meetings with Russian President Vladimir Putin, despite criticism from other European leaders, who have seen it as an attempt to whitewash the Russian president and his actions

Second Block – Aid Reluctance. Hungarian and Slovakian positions.

HUNGARY AND SLOVAKIA

HOW HAVE THEY POSITIONED THEMSELVES REGARDING THE DECISIONS OF THE EU AS A WHOLE?

Economic and Financial Sanctions



Financial and Military Support for Ukraine



Energy Crisis and Security Measures



Refugee Protection



Diplomatic Isolation of Russia



Bans on Russian Media



(BASED ON OVERALL ACTIONS, VOTES IN COUNCIL AND PAST AND PRESENT STATEMENTS)