

## Current Situation in Ukraine QSD on 17 December 2018

This briefing identifies relevant reports and useful documents, including recent parliamentary materials and press articles, which may be of assistance to Members in preparing for the following debate:

Viscount Waverley to ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the current situation in Ukraine.

Copies of the materials are available for collection from the Library.

### Key Information

- Melinda Haring and Alexander Vershbow, '[Explainer: What Just Happened Between Russia and Ukraine, and Why Does It Matter?](#)', Atlantic Council, 27 November 2018; and Foreign and Commonwealth Office, '[Foreign Secretary Condemns Russian Aggression in the Sea of Azov](#)', 26 November 2018

*Article detailing the events on 25 November 2018 where Russia seized three Ukrainian naval vessels as they were preparing to enter the Sea of Azov through the Kerch Strait. In the incident, 23 Ukrainian sailors were taken into Russian custody. Also, a press release by the UK Government condemning Russia's actions.*

- Foreign and Commonwealth Office, '[Ambassador Jonathan Allen's Statement at the UN Security Council's Briefing on Ukraine](#)', 26 November 2018; and NATO, '[Press Conference by NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg Following the Meeting of the NATO-Ukraine Commission](#)', 26 November 2018

*Statement by Jonathan Allen, UK Deputy Permanent Representative to the UK, in which he condemns Russia's actions and calls for the release of the 23 detained Ukrainians. In addition, transcript of statement and press conference given by Jens Stoltenberg following a meeting of the NATO-Ukraine Commission.*

- Alec Luhn, '[Ukraine Condemns Russia-backed Separatist Elections in War-torn East](#)', *Telegraph* (£), 11 November 2018; Foreign and Commonwealth Office, '[UK Condemns Illegitimate "Elections" Held in the Donbas, Ukraine](#)', 12 November 2018; and NATO, '[Statement by the NATO Spokesperson on the Reported Elections in Eastern Ukraine](#)', 11 November 2018

*Article detailing recent elections held in the Donetsk and Luhansk "people's republics", with statements by the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and NATO reacting to the elections.*

- Security Council Report, '[Chronology of Events: Ukraine](#)', revised on 6 December 2018; and Council on Foreign Relations, '[Global Conflict Tracker: Conflict in Ukraine](#)', 10 December 2018

*Overviews of developments in Ukraine since 2013. The first sums up events on an annual basis. The second includes information on: the annexation of Crimea by Russia; the Minsk Accords; actions taken by NATO; and cyberattacks in Ukraine.*

### Parliamentary Debate, Statements and Questions

- House of Lords, '[Written Question: Russia: Ukraine](#)', 10 December 2018, HL11820
- House of Commons, '[Written Question: Ukraine: Sovereignty](#)', 3 December 2018, 196687
- [Debate on 'Ukraine-Russia Relations'](#), HC Hansard, 27 November 2018, cols 157–70
- [Private Notice Question on 'Russia and Ukraine: Seizure of Naval Vessels'](#), HL Hansard, 26 November 2018, cols 483–5

### Press Articles and Comment

- Steven Pifer, '[The Battle for Azov: Round 1 Goes to Russia](#)', Brookings, 3 December 2018
- Roman Olearchyk and Henry Fox, '[Ukraine Bans Adult Russian Men from Entering the Country](#)', *Financial Times* (£), 30 November 2018
- John E Herbst, '[How the West Got Martial Law in Ukraine Totally Wrong](#)', Atlantic Council, 30 November 2018
- BBC News, '[Ukraine-Russia Sea Clash: Captured Sailors Shown on Russia TV](#)', 27 November 2018
- Mathieu Boulègue, '[In Sea of Azov, Russia Again Tests Its Strength](#)', Chatham House, 27 November 2018
- Alec Luhn, '[There Is No Ceasefire—Bombings Are Politics As Usual in Donetsk](#)', *Telegraph* (£), 10 November 2018

### Further Information

- Organisation for Security and Co-operation Europe, '[OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine](#)', accessed 11 December 2018
- House of Commons Library, [Situation in Ukraine](#), 18 December 2017
- Human Rights Watch, [Ukraine: Events of 2017](#), 2017

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