



West urges Russia to allow grain shipments. Ukraine urges West to help more

By admin On July 11, 2022 In Insurance Marine News, Keep, Political Risk, Credit & Finance

Ukraine's Western allies urged Russia on July 8th to allow Kyiv to ship grain out via Ukrainian ports still under Ukraine's control.

However, Russia's ambassador to London told *Reuters* that its troops would defeat Ukrainian forces in the whole of the eastern Donbas region and were unlikely to withdraw from a swathe of land across the southern coast. Ambassador Andrei Kelin said that sooner or later Ukraine would have to decide whether to strike a peace deal with Russia or "continue slipping down this hill" to ruin.

At a meeting of G20 foreign ministers in Bali, Indonesia, the more committed supporters of Ukraine confronted leading Russian diplomat Sergei Lavrov.

Getting grain shipments out of Ukraine via blockaded ports and into the Black Sea. Several countries in Africa, the Middle East and elsewhere face devastating food shortages if supplies do not reach them.

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said on Friday that "To our Russian colleagues: Ukraine is not your country. Its grain is not your grain. Why are you blocking the ports? You should let the grain out".

Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba, in a virtual address to the meeting, said the international community should not allow Russia to blackmail the world with high energy prices, hunger and security threats.

The meeting's host, Indonesian Foreign Minister Retno Marsudi, said the repercussions of the war, including rising energy and food prices, would hit poor countries the hardest. Reintegration of Ukraine and Russia's grain and fertilizer into supply chains was critical, she said, while taking a softer line than that held by Ukrain. Retno said that "it is our responsibility to end the war sooner than later and settle our differences at the negotiating table, not at the battlefield".

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy, in a remote address to Slovenia's parliament, said food shortages would lead to increased migration to Europe in what he saw as part of a Russian plan to destabilize the continent.

"Russia is blocking our ports, preventing the transportation of grain. Famine will cause large migration flows in the future. Because of this, we are working to save the countries of Africa, and the Middle East and try to feed these people," he said. Earlier in the week Ukraine had said that its western partners should do more to help unblock Ukraine's Black Sea ports. Rostyslav Shurma, deputy head of President Volodymyr Zelenskiy's office told *Reuters* on Tuesday July 5th that the country's finances were increasingly precarious. Logistics problems linked to the war with Russia, notably at seaport Odesa, hit exports, causing currency inflows to Ukraine to drop to around \$2.5bn per month, from around \$7bn before the war, Shurma said on the sidelines of the Ukraine Recovery Conference.

"We are in the process with the United Nations trying to unblock this process, but I think we need much more decisive steps from our Western partners to unblock the Black Sea," he said, seeking strong security guarantees for seaports.

He said the Ukrainian economy had shrunk by 30% to 40% since Russia attacked the country on February 24th.