

EU to Pay Ukraine's Budget Because It's Told To

Description

ER Editor: Washington's poodles strike again. This sounds like a **shovelling of money into oligarchal pockets at the Ukrainian (and/or European) taxpayers' expense.** According to this report, around 3.2 billion euros have already been given, to be followed by another 9 billion for immediate, short-term financing. Zelensky claims to need 7 billion a month. There will be surely much more to follow.

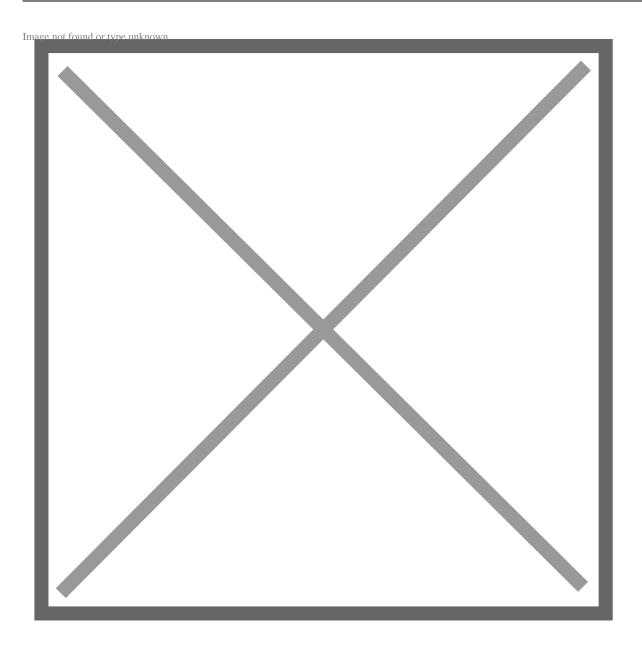
Whatever is left of Ukraine in terms of landmass, the country will be forever mired in debt.

We will continue to be by Ukraine's side – throughout this war and when they start rebuilding.

We are proposing new macro-financial assistance for Ukraine of up to €9 billion in 2022. pic.twitter.com/zC1dTTq490

- Ursula von der Leyen (@vonderleyen) May 18, 2022

EU to pay Ukraine's budget



Samizdat (RT)

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen on Wednesday proposed an aid package of 9 billion euros (\$9.5 billion) to keep Ukraine's government running, and said that the EU would lead reconstruction efforts in Ukraine after hostilities cease. Her announcement came a day after *the US called on Europe to open its coffers for Kiev*.

Money for the aid package would be borrowed by the Commission on **global financial markets** and would be repayable by Kiev (*ER: i.e. its already impoverished citizens*). As per the EU's rules on macro-financial assistance, the Ukrainian government would be free to use the cash as it sees fit. (*ER: snouts in the trough*)

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky has claimed that Ukraine needs around **\$7 billion per month** to pay its soldiers, civilians and pensioners, and to keep essential services running. **The proposed EU** package will therefore keep Ukraine functioning for just over a month.

Hours before von der Leyen's announcement, US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen told the Brussels Economic Forum that "the bilateral and multilateral support announced so far will not be sufficient to address Ukraine's needs, even in the short term."

"I sincerely ask all our partners to join us in increasing their financial support to Ukraine," she continued, adding that aside from keeping the country afloat in the short term, "massive support" would be needed to rebuild Ukraine once the fighting ends.

Von der Leyen said on Wednesday that the EU will **lead this reconstruction effort**, but would not be the sole contributor.

"That is why we propose a reconstruction platform as part of this plan jointly led by Ukraine and the Commission and bringing together EU Member States, other bilateral or international donors, international financial institutions, and other like-minded partners," she said.

While von der Leyen's aid package is in line with what Yellen requested, it must still be approved by both the European Parliament and European Council. However, none of the Commission's aid packages to Ukraine thus far – which include four consecutive €500 million (\$520 million) packages of military aid and €1.2 billion (\$1.26 billion) worth of emergency loans – have faced any resistance from either body.

Russian President Vladimir Putin has accused EU leaders of acting on behalf of their "American overlord" with regard to Ukraine, and committing economic "suicide" by cutting themselves off from Russian energy resources amid inflation and record high fuel costs. (ER: And he'd be right)

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Date Created 05/19/2022