

Secretary Blinken's Travel to Kyiv, Ukraine

May 13-16, 2024

Overview

Secretary Blinken will travel to Kyiv May 13-16 to reinforce U.S. support for Ukraine following the recent passing of the Ukraine aid supplemental bill. While in Kyiv, the Secretary will participate in several bilateral meetings with President Zelenskyy, Prime Minister Shmyhal, and Foreign Minister Kuleba. The Secretary will also deliver a speech that highlights the significance of providing aid to Ukraine, supporting Ukraine's economic recovery, what's at stake, and underscore how support from the United States and Allies will help Ukraine to operate independently following the war.

Trip Objectives

1. Reinforce confidence in Ukraine's ability to prevail. Signal continued help is arriving.
2. Underline enduring U.S. support for Ukraine's self-defense and deterrence against future aggression, its ongoing recovery efforts, and preserving its strong democracy.
3. Emphasize Ukraine's Euro-Atlantic aspirations and their future in NATO and the European Union.
4. Highlight U.S. support for a comprehensive, just, and lasting peace based on full respect for Ukraine's independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity, within its internationally recognized borders and consistent with the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter.

Target Audiences

- Ukrainians in Ukraine, and the diaspora throughout Europe and beyond.
- NATO Allies and partners including the European Union.
- International and domestic journalists covering the trip.
- Congressional leaders and policy makers focused on Ukrainian issues and U.S.-Ukraine policy.

Communications Guidance

- **Support for Ukraine:** Continue to emphasize enduring U.S. support for Ukraine and the significance of the recent passing on the supplemental funding package for Ukraine.
- **Ukraine-Specific Language:** Encourage hope without downplaying the hardship Ukrainians face under Russian aggression. Refrain from using the word "resilient" when messaging to Ukrainians, which can be interpreted as "Get used to it."
- **Russia-Specific Language:** Talk about why supporting Ukraine to defend itself from Russia's aggression is the right thing to do. When speaking about Russian atrocities, frame messaging in terms of war crimes, justice, and accountability. Keep making the case that Ukrainians continue to suffer under Russia's invasion.