

INTERNATIONAL EXECUTIVE REVIEW



An augmented trotskyist bulletin

BULLETIN #70 | 12 October 2026 | 17:45 CEST

The intelligence of the many

Against the machinery of war, the intelligence of the many.

EDITORIAL | The revived series begins at #70. News cutoff: 12 October 2026, 17:45 CEST. The Warsaw first-day report is interim.

Europe needs an awakening: a renewed capacity to recognise where its rulers are taking it, whose interests they serve, and who will pay the price. The International Executive Review resumes with a conviction rooted in revolutionary internationalism: working people must become conscious participants in history, capable of resisting the forces that would sacrifice their lives and futures.

Why bring artificial intelligence into this struggle? Because a worker with limited time confronts an immense volume of official statements, military briefings, competing narratives and selective silences. AI can help examine that material: translating across borders, comparing claims, tracing contradictions and making difficult subjects accessible.

But AI deserves no political obedience. It can reproduce prejudice, invent facts and lend fluent language to bad arguments. Every consequential claim demands evidence. Every source demands scrutiny. Human judgment remains indispensable.

An augmented trotskyist bulletin places technology at the service of critical inquiry, working-class independence and solidarity across national frontiers. It must reject the idea that workers should identify their interests with the ambitions of their own state. Opposition to NATO's policies must coexist with opposition to Russian conquest and with solidarity for civilians subjected to invasion.

Our purpose is to help people understand enough to organise, challenge their rulers and prevent catastrophe. No ruling class should hold a monopoly on understanding. No population should be marched towards destruction without the means to question the march.

Eastern Ukraine: pressure, resistance and disputed claims

REPORTING | ISW's 11 October assessment describes continued Russian attacks around Lyman, east of Slovyansk, and near Kostiantynivka and Druzhkivka, without assessed advances in those sectors during 10-11 October. It records Ukrainian counterattacks around Lyman and Rai-Oleksandrivka, and geolocated evidence of Ukrainian positions or advances in western Kostiantynivka. These are assessments of particular sectors, not proof that the entire front is stable. [\[1\]](#)

The same assessment disputes Russian claims of an encirclement near Dobropillya and warns that altered flag-raising footage is being used to assert territorial control. A video, especially one suspected of AI manipulation, cannot establish that an army controls a town. [\[1\]](#)

IER ANALYSIS | Read this front through supply routes, civilian survival and the exhaustion of people, rather than triumphalist daily scoreboards. Local resistance can coexist with dangerous pressure elsewhere. This issue does not certify a fresh village-by-village map or independently verified casualty totals.

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Warsaw, day 1: readiness and the politics of escalation

INTERIM SUMMARY | Warsaw Security Forum, 12-13 October. Day 1 continues into the evening; the account below separates reported remarks from the published programme.

REPORTING | At the forum, NATO's Supreme Allied Commander Europe, General Alexis Grynkeiwich, presented an approach intended to defeat an attack on any ally. Reuters reports that the response could extend beyond the attacking formations to the system supplying and controlling them. His remarks frame NATO's posture as defensive, while setting out a broad potential military response. [\[3\]](#)

Associated Press also reports an essential qualification: Grynkeiwich does not consider a conflict imminent or inevitable. He argues for military preparedness alongside open communication to resolve misunderstandings. A responsible summary must include this qualification alongside the forceful deterrence language. [\[4\]](#)

PROGRAMME | The first-day agenda links European military capacity, conventional and nuclear deterrence, air power, air and missile defence, drones and energy resilience. It also includes Ukraine's human cost, protection of Baltic energy infrastructure and the durability of the transatlantic alliance. Defence-company executives feature in several sessions. These are documented programme choices; they do not establish what every participant said or what the panels concluded. [\[2\]](#)

NATO's own advisory announced Deputy Secretary General Radmila Shekerinska's participation in a panel on Europe's military power, scheduled for 14:40 CEST. This confirms the advertised role, rather than supplying a transcript of her intervention. [\[5\]](#)

IER ANALYSIS | The political question is who defines security and who pays for it. Industrial capacity and operational readiness matter to governments; housing, wages, food and the protection of life matter to those governed. Workers need an independent account of both. The presence of arms producers is reason to scrutinise

interests and procurement, rather than evidence by itself that every discussion is a conspiracy.

Deterrence is presented as a route to peace. Its danger is that threatened responses, ambiguous incidents and accelerated decision-making can also multiply opportunities for miscalculation. Democratic scrutiny should demand clear thresholds, functioning communication channels and diplomatic off-ramps. Rejecting fatalism requires reporting efforts at de-escalation as seriously as threats.

Military news: the nuclear exercise ahead

REPORTING | NATO says its annual Steadfast Noon exercise begins on 13 October in Italy, involving 17 countries. The alliance describes it as long-planned and routine, with no live weapons, and says it is neither linked to current events nor directed against a country. These are NATO's stated assurances; the exercise's nuclear-deterrence function still warrants public scrutiny. [\[6\]](#)

IER ANALYSIS | An announced training exercise is not evidence of an imminent nuclear attack. Watch for departures from its declared scope, changes in alert posture, military incidents and reciprocal signals. The distinction between training, signalling and actual operational preparation is indispensable to an anti-war bulletin.

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Winter: electricity, heat and the social cost

REPORTING | September reporting by Le Monde described gaps in Ukraine's air defence and the vulnerability of energy, logistics and economic networks to attack. That is a structural warning as winter approaches, not a prediction of exceptionally cold weather. The immediate concern is whether damaged systems, repair capacity and protection can sustain ordinary civilian life. [\[7\]](#)

WFP's Ukraine overview describes support for school kitchens, including energy-efficient equipment and generator fuel for winter and blackouts. Food provision already depends on keeping basic infrastructure functioning. [\[10\]](#)

IER ANALYSIS | A household's winter security includes reliable heating, water, electricity, affordable food and income. A damaged grid can threaten all five. Watch verified outages, restoration times, heating preparations and humanitarian funding. Emergency plans should protect hospitals, schools, older people and workers repairing infrastructure.

Diesel: tight markets, not an empty continent

REPORTING | On 7 October, the IEA said member governments supported accelerating outstanding stock releases and giving priority to diesel because markets were tight. Approximately 325 million barrels of oil had already been released under the March collective action; fulfilling remaining pledges would add roughly 100 million barrels. That figure is outstanding earlier commitments, not automatically a wholly new package. [\[8\]](#)

The IEA also reported publicly held emergency oil stocks of about 1.1 billion barrels, including more than 200 million barrels of diesel. These are aggregate member-country stocks, not a measure of immediately available fuel at every European depot. Their existence does not

eliminate logistical constraints; market tightness does not establish continent-wide exhaustion. [\[8\]](#)

Le Monde reported on 12 October that Ukraine and European allies were responding critically to the US-Russian diesel agreement announced the previous week. This makes fuel supply part of the diplomacy of the war, as well as a transport and agricultural issue. [\[9\]](#)

IER ANALYSIS | Track deliveries, local restrictions, prices and access for freight, farming and emergency services. An announced release must be distinguished from fuel actually reaching users. Higher costs can move through distribution into household budgets even where pumps remain supplied.

Food: the shortage is also access

REPORTING | WFP's current country overview estimates that two million people in Ukraine need food and livelihoods assistance. Near the front, attacks, unsafe roads, shuttered shops and lost incomes obstruct access to food. Physical availability and the ability to pay are separate constraints. WFP provides food or cash according to local conditions. [\[10\]](#)

Its 9 October account of humanitarian drivers reports 43 security incidents affecting WFP and partners this year and loss of access to 354 settlements, cutting off more than 15,000 people. These figures concern humanitarian access; they are not a count of European supermarket shortages. [\[11\]](#)

IER ANALYSIS | The sources reviewed here do not establish a general European food shortage. The justified warning concerns vulnerable Ukrainian communities and the possibility that fuel costs and disruption intensify food insecurity. Monitor assistance delivery, food prices, agricultural inputs and ports without turning a plausible risk into a declared certainty.

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The workers' front: refusing the bill

REPORTING | On 9 October, people marched in Brussels against the Belgian government's social and economic policies. Le Monde reports 30,000 participants according to police and 50,000 according to unions. The different estimates should remain visible rather than being merged into a convenient headline. [\[13\]](#)

FGTB-ABVV's published demands reject VAT increases, attacks on wage indexation and imposed flexibility through annualised working time. It calls for protecting purchasing power, working conditions and dignified retirement, while shifting the fiscal burden towards wealth and capital. [\[12\]](#)

The union's September Plan B proposes eleven fiscal and social measures, with its own estimate of more than EUR 21 billion in annual resources. Proposals include more equal taxation of labour and capital income and closing tax loopholes. This is an alternative budget programme advanced by the union, not revenue already collected. [\[14\]](#)

IER ANALYSIS | A workers' movement against war must be able to speak concretely about wages, tax, pensions and public services. It should connect these struggles across borders and examine how military spending is financed. Today's Brussels protest should not be relabelled an anti-war mobilisation: its documented demands concern social policy. The political connection to resistance against militarism is an argument IER advances.

What the next briefing must establish

WATCHLIST | Has the proposed restraint on energy attacks produced verifiable changes? What new evidence changes the eastern-front assessment? Have Warsaw's later sessions yielded published statements or decisions? Has diesel actually been delivered under release commitments? Which communities remain beyond humanitarian reach? Which labour actions have occurred, and which are only planned?

The next issue should follow the evidence rather than repeat an escalating vocabulary. Negotiations, reduced attacks and restored civilian supplies deserve attention alongside deterioration. War is a political danger to resist, not a conclusion to assume.

VERIFICATION NOTE | News cutoff: 12 October 2026, 17:45 CEST. The battlefield snapshot is the latest fully consulted ISW assessment, dated 11 October. An indexed Ukrinform update for 12 October could not be opened and is not used for precise combat totals. Official agendas are not speech transcripts. Some reporting is subscription-limited; no unconsulted detail is presented as verified.

Sources and verification

- [1] ISW / AEI Critical Threats, 11 October 2026. [Russian Offensive Campaign Assessment](#) Open-source assessment; battlefield conclusions and belligerent claims are not interchangeable.
- [2] Warsaw Security Forum, 12 October 2026. [Day 1 programme](#) Programme, not a transcript or confirmation of panel outcomes.
- [3] Reuters / Internazionale, 12 October 2026. [Grynkewich's warning about an attack on NATO](#)
- [4] Associated Press, 12 October 2026. [NATO commander: readiness, communication and war risk](#) Reporting also explicitly records that he does not regard conflict as imminent or inevitable.
- [5] NATO, 9 October 2026. [Deputy Secretary General's Warsaw visit](#) Media advisory; scheduled participation.
- [6] NATO, 8 October 2026. [Steadfast Noon: annual nuclear exercise](#)
- [7] Le Monde, 10 September 2026. [Ukraine braces for another winter as air defence falls short](#) Background report; full article may require subscription. No weather forecast is inferred.
- [8] International Energy Agency, 7 October 2026. [Statement on accelerated stock releases](#)
- [9] Le Monde, 12 October 2026. [Ukraine and Europe respond to the US-Russian diesel deal](#) Reported political responses; full article may require subscription.
- [10] World Food Programme, accessed 12 October 2026. [Ukraine: needs and assistance](#) Undated country overview; figures are a background estimate, not a new daily count.
- [11] World Food Programme, 9 October 2026. [Steering through danger: humanitarian drivers](#)
- [12] FGTB-ABVV, 9 October 2026. [Brussels demonstration: demands](#) Union's own position.
- [13] Le Monde, 10 October 2026. [Brussels protest against federal government policies](#) Police and union attendance estimates differ.
- [14] FGTB-ABVV, 21 September 2026. [Plan B: eleven budget proposals](#) Revenue estimates belong to the union; not independently audited here.

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Prepared with AI assistance. Signed off by the editor. Reporting, attributed claims and IER analysis are distinguished in the text.