

# EURASIA DIGEST

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## **Russia Produced First Poseidon Super Torpedoes**

Russia's news agency TASS, on 16 January 2023, [said](#) that the country's military-industrial complex has produced the first set of Poseidon nuclear-capable super torpedoes for use on the Belgorod nuclear submarine. The Poseidon is an "Intercontinental Nuclear-Powered Nuclear-Armed Autonomous Torpedo" with a nuclear power supply, the development of which was first announced by President Vladimir Putin in 2018. The Poseidon was Russia's response to the U.S. withdrawal from the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty.

## **8.5 % of Western Firms Have Left Russia**

A joint [study](#) by the University of St. Gallen and the IMD institute in Lausanne has shown that only a small number of Western companies have left Russia. When Russia launched its "special military operation", a total of 2,405 EU and G7 companies' subsidiaries were active in Russia. By late November 2022, about 8.5% of those companies had divested at least one subsidiary. There were more confirmed exits by companies headquartered in the United States than those based in Europe and Japan.

## **Uzbekistan To Import Russian Gas Amid Energy Crisis**

Uzbekistan will import natural [gas](#) from Russia for the first time as Tashkent faces an acute energy crisis. This decision was announced by the authorities in Tashkent on 26 January 2023. The delivery of gas is expected to commence from 1 March 2023.

## **Russia Said EU Mission To Armenia Would Fuel Confrontation**

Russia, on 27 January 2023, [accused](#) the European Union (EU) of seeking to fuel "geopolitical confrontation" by sending a civilian mission to monitor Armenia's volatile border with Azerbaijan. The EU mission was launched, in what Armenia describes as a "humanitarian crisis", in Nagorno-Karabakh. A group of Azerbaijanis have blocked the sole access into Karabakh from Armenia since mid-December to protest what they claim is environmental damage on account of illegal mining. The blockade has led to shortages of food, medicines and fuel for the nearly one lakh residents of the region.

## **Turkmenistan's President Visited China**

On 6 January 2023, Turkmen President Serdar Berdimuhamedov [paid](#) an official visit to China. The main focus of the visit was to elevate the two countries relations to a comprehensive strategic partnership. It was the Turkmen president's first visit to China since assuming office. China in its official statement stated that it would strengthen communication and collaboration with Turkmenistan. A joint statement was signed focusing on Belt and Road cooperation, green development, digital economy, health, culture, sports, press and media, and natural gas.

## **Kazakhstan To Supply Oil To Germany Via Russia**

On 13 January 2023, Kazakhstan's state-owned oil [transporter](#) KazTransOil stated that it had received permission from the Ministry of Energy of the Russian

Federation for the transport of oil to Germany. The oil would be transported via the ‘Druzhba pipeline’ - the longest pipeline to run from Russia to Eastern and Central Europe. Approximately 3,00,000 tons of oil are expected to be delivered in the first quarter of 2023.

### **Uzbekistan’s President Visited Kyrgyzstan**

On 26 January 2023, Uzbekistan President Shavkat Mirziyoyev paid a state [visit](#) to Bishkek. During the visit, he highlighted the importance of Kyrgyzstan as a strategic partner. The highlight of the visit was the completion of the delimitation of the Uzbek-Kyrgyz border. Other key issues discussed involved trade and investment, transport, communication, water, energy and inter-regional cooperation.

### **Sweden Took Over European Union Presidency**

On 1 January 2023, Sweden took [over](#) the Council of European Union Presidency for the next six months. During its presidency, Sweden has set four priorities: security competitiveness, green energy transitions, democratic values, and rule of law. Sweden also aims to provide military and financial support to Ukraine.

### **EU And NATO Pledged To Expand Cooperation**

EU and NATO, on 10 January 2023, signed a [joint declaration](#) to deepen and expand cooperation in areas of mutual interests. The declaration dwells on geostrategic competition, resilience of supply chains,

protection of critical infrastructure, emerging and disruptive technologies, space, security implications of climate change, foreign information manipulation, and interference. However, internal contradictions in both the EU and NATO could throw a spanner in the works.

### **Boris Pistorius Took Charge As Germany's New Defence Minister**

Post the resignation of Christine Lambrecht, Boris Pistorius was appointed the new [German defense minister](#) on 19 January 2023. After a ceremony with military honours at the defence ministry, Pistorius said, “our task is to make the Bundeswehr (armed forces) strong now, it is about deterrence, effectiveness and readiness, and it is about continuing to support Ukraine, also with material of the Bundeswehr”. This change came at a time when Germany was under pressure from the Western allies to allow German-made battle tanks to be given to Ukraine.

### **Franco-German Summit Took Place**

The Franco-German Summit between President Macron and President Scholz took [place](#) on 22 January 2023. The joint communiqué recognized the importance of cooperation between France and Germany for the progress of Europe. Both sides agreed to forge a “strong European foreign and security policy” by strengthening “European defence capabilities”. The document also highlighted the common objective of “a more sovereign and united Europe that is in control of its destiny”.