

[PM meeting with President Erdoğan of Turkey: 24 March 2022](#)

Press release

Prime Minister Boris Johnson met President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan of Turkey at the NATO summit in Brussels today.



The Prime Minister met President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan of Turkey at the NATO summit in Brussels today.

They shared their deep concerns at the increasingly brutal conflict unfolding in Ukraine, and the Prime Minister welcomed Turkey's strong diplomatic leadership and humanitarian response.

They discussed ways to increase military and economic support to Ukraine's government as it seeks to defend itself. The leaders also discussed bolstering regional security in the face of new threats, including in the Black Sea.

The Prime Minister noted the opportunities for greater trade and investment between the UK and Turkey, including in renewable and nuclear energy, and looked forward boosting cooperation between our countries.

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[PM meeting with EU President Ursula von der Leyen: 24 March 2022](#)

Press release

Prime Minister Boris Johnson met the President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, on the sidelines of the G7 meeting in Brussels today.



The Prime Minister met the President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, on the sidelines of the G7 meeting in Brussels today.

He welcomed President von der Leyen's leadership on the response to crisis in Ukraine and the EU's close cooperation with the UK, including on sanctions, energy security and the humanitarian response.

They shared their horror at the devastation being inflicted on Ukraine by Russia, and agreed on the need to step up military, financial and economic support to the Ukrainian government.

The leaders committed to strengthen the economic sanctions on Putin's regime and continue working together to diversify energy sources and move away from reliance on Russian hydrocarbons.

The Prime Minister and President Von der Leyen also discussed wider bilateral cooperation, including the ongoing issues with the Northern Ireland Protocol. The Prime Minister reiterated the importance of working together to find durable solutions that address the challenges with the Protocol.

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[Minister for Asia statement on North Korea, 24 March 2022](#)

Press release

Minister for Asia, Amanda Milling, comments on the latest launch of a ballistic missile by North Korea.



Minister for Asia, Amanda Milling said:

The UK condemns the latest launch of a ballistic missile by North Korea; a clear breach of UN Security Resolutions.

This repeated escalation of testing is deeply damaging for regional security and stability.

We urge North Korea to refrain from illegal launches, return to dialogue swiftly and to abandon its nuclear and ballistic missile programmes in a complete, verifiable and irreversible manner.

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PM statement at NATO press conference: 24 March 2022

It is scarcely believable as we stand here today that just a month ago, the Ukrainian people were living ordinary, peaceful lives. Now, they are locked in an extraordinary battle for survival against an unprovoked onslaught from

their neighbours.

Ukrainians have taken up the fight and taught the world the meaning of bravery. Against the odds, they have snarled up Russia's invading army, inflicting defeat after defeat. The heroism of Ukraine has changed the geopolitics of Europe.

Vladimir Putin has badly miscalculated in Ukraine, and I believe he knows it. But now that Putin's Plan A has foundered, he is already escalating by intensifying his attacks on civilians.

Maternity wards, schools and homes and have been bombed without any regard for civilian life. Families are being starved out in freezing basement shelters, and targeted as they flee.

The United Kingdom – and our allies in NATO and the G7 here today – are clear: we will not stand by while Putin vents his fury on Ukraine.

I have rarely seen our nations more united in recent years than we are now. Putin's failure in Ukraine is vital for the peace and prosperity of all of us, and his barbaric invasion has galvanised the international community into collective action.

We will work with likeminded allies to ramp up lethal aid to Ukraine at scale, providing kit to President Zelenskyy in the quantity and with the quality and quantity that he needs to defend his country from its bullying neighbour.

Today, I have announced we in the UK will send an additional 6,000 missiles and provide £25 million in unrestricted funding for Ukraine's armed forces, more than doubling the lethal aid we have provided to date.

We are bolstering our support for the NATO countries on the frontline, sending a new deployment of UK troops to Bulgaria on top of the doubling our troops both in Poland and in Estonia.

This is just the beginning. We must support a free and democratic Ukraine in the long term. This is a fellow European democracy fighting a war of national defence.

NATO and G7 leaders were also united today in our determination to continue turning the screws on the Kremlin's war machine, including by weaning ourselves off Russian oil and gas and reshaping global energy security.

The UK has already hit over 1,000 Russian individuals and entities in our toughest-ever sanctions, and the Foreign Secretary has announced 65 new sanctions against Russian banks, weapons manufacturers and oligarchs just this morning.

I also discussed the humanitarian response with our allies and partners today, as we continue to see huge numbers of Ukrainians flee their homes.

And the message that President Putin can take from today's extraordinary

meeting of NATO and the G7 is this: Ukraine is not alone.

We stand with the people of Kyiv, of Mairupol, of Lviv and Donetsk. And as President Zelenskyy has said himself – the people of Ukraine will prevail and Putin must fail and he will fail.

Government names preferred candidate for Ofcom chair

Lord Grade has had a long career in broadcasting, encompassing London Weekend Television, the BBC, ITV, as well as over nine years as Chief Executive of Channel Four Television.

In May 2004 he was appointed Chairman of the BBC, succeeding Gavyn Davies, resigning in November 2006 when his appointment as Executive Chairman of ITV was announced, a post he relinquished in 2009.

Lord Grade was non-executive Chairman of Pinewood and Shepperton Film Studios for 16 years. He is non-executive Chairman of Talent Bank and of the production company StoryFirst. He is also on the advisory board of Miroma SET (formerly R4E Plc), a media and entertainment marketing company.

Lord Grade is co-founder of the GradeLinnit company, a theatrical production company, having also been Chairman of Ocado, First Leisure Corporation, Camelot, the Charity Fundraising Regulator and Bradford's Media Museum as well as being a member of the former Press Complaints Commission and a trustee of the Science Museum.

In January 2011 he became the Conservative Peer, Lord Grade of Yarmouth. However if he is appointed as Ofcom chair he will move to the cross-benches at the earliest opportunity. Lord Grade would also give up any non-executive roles that could cause a conflict of interest in him becoming Ofcom chair.

Culture Secretary Nadine Dorries said:

I am delighted to announce that Lord Grade is the Government's preferred candidate to be the new chair of Ofcom. Lord Grade's experience at the highest level of a number of broadcasters and his expert knowledge of the British media landscape makes him an ideal candidate for this role.

Going forward, Ofcom has an even more important role to play as the UK's communications regulator. The introduction of the Online Safety Bill will give it new responsibilities and resources to ensure digital platforms tackle illegal and abusive material

online. I am confident that under Lord Grade's leadership Ofcom will rise to the challenge with great success.

Lord Grade said:

Ofcom is respected across the globe as a first rate communications regulator so I am privileged to be asked to become its chair. The role of Ofcom in British life has never been more important with new responsibilities on the horizon regulating online safety, on top of the ever changing broadcasting landscape. I look forward to my appearance in front of the DCMS Select Committee to outline what I can bring to this role and how I can help ensure Ofcom is fit for the future.

Lord Grade will now appear before MPs on the Digital, Culture, Media and Sport Select Committee for pre-appointment scrutiny (date to be confirmed).

Under the terms of the legislation, the appointment is made by the Secretary of State. The appointment process for this role was conducted in line with the Governance Code on Public Appointments with due process followed at all times.

Ministers were assisted in their decision-making by an Advisory Assessment Panel which included a departmental official and a senior independent panel member approved by the Commissioner for Public Appointments.

Notes to editors

- The appointment is for a term of four years. The role is for 3 days per week, remunerated at £142,500 per annum.
- This appointment is made in accordance with the Cabinet Office's Governance Code for Public Appointments.
- The regulation of public appointments against the requirements of this code is carried out by the Commissioner for Public Appointments.
- In accordance with the Code, it should be publicly disclosed if a successful candidate, has, in the last five years, been employed by a political party, held a significant office in a party, has stood as a candidate for a party in an election, has publicly spoken on behalf of a political party, or has made significant donations or loans to a party.
- Lord Grade is a Conservative peer in the House of Lords, however he will move to the cross benches if the appointment is confirmed. Lord Grade has not declared any further political activity in line with these requirements.