



Solidarity Ukraine – issue 38- Green spring in Europe

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The Institute for Research and Information on Volunteering (iriv) has been associated since 24 February 2022 with international solidarity in favour of Ukraine attacked by Russia. The COVID pandemic has weakened democratic countries. Conspiracy theories and hate speech have exploded on social media and networks. This new war in Europe is no longer peripheral, it has become existential for the European Union which plays its influence in the world. This newsletter is the 4th published in 2025 and the 38th since the Russian aggression against Ukraine. Green is associated with spring, renewal, impulsive spirit. It can also symbolize instability, misfortune or medieval demons. Aliens (ETs) are little green people who can be nice messengers or fanatical hackers launched against the

US federal administration, valiantly defended by the acting director of the FBI. The Russian president took advantage of the chaos caused by the Arab Spring (2011), a wind of freedom quickly repressed, to regain its place on the international stage (in 2013). His motives are far from peaceful when he allies himself with the Assad clan that has martyred the Syrians since 1970 or the regime of the Mullahs who persecute his youth and any opposition since 1979. The sun is green in Ukraine after the merciless war delivered by Russia since 2022- an NGO supported by the German and Swedish governments and an environmental defense foundation has been able to quantify the Russian debt. In the European Union, the CSRD directive applied since 2024 encourages transparency of companies' information to respect the planet. We hope that the greenwashing practiced by some companies does not pollute the negotiations for a lasting peace in Ukraine...

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* the logo was designed by Caritas Canada in February 2022

Green colour

For Michel Pastoureau (1), green is a medium, peaceful color. The German writer Goethe in a treatise written at the end of the eighteenth century finds its soothing virtues. For theologians, it is the color of ordinary Sundays. Green also has a transgressive and turbulent character. While it is easy to obtain green dyes (from leaves, roots, flowers, bark...), it has always been difficult to stabilize them. Natural materials wear out in the light, artificial ones are corrosive. Green is therefore the colour of chance, game, fate, fate, luck. In the Middle Ages, duels were fought on a green meadow. Jugglers and clowns or hunters dressed in green.

As early as the 16th century, in the first Venetian casinos, cards were thrown on green carpets. Slang is called “green language” because it was the language of the players. Green also represents misfortune, unfaithful love, immaturity (green fruits make teeth grind). Greenish has been attributed to evil spirits, demons, dragons, snakes and other evil creatures, between the earthly world and beyond. Green has become the color of silver, the first dollars appeared between 1792 and 1863, are green banknotes. We moved from gambling to banking and finance, which can be very speculative (with the worldwide financial crisis of 2008).

Islam has the first green associated with a positive notion, nature. In the time of Prophet Muhammad, any green place was synonymous with oasis, and therefore paradise in the middle of the desert where no plant can grow. The Prophet liked to wear a green turban and banner. The colour became the emblem of the Muslim world. During the "Arab Spring", a desire of youth and most of the population for freedom and democracy, many demonstrators in Tunisia where the movement began (late 2010) then won Egypt, Libya, or Syria... wearing a green ribbon, the color of hope, faith in the future, an escape to a better world. Urban dwellers flee polluted cities to go “green” and breathe the air of the countryside. Green has become that of ecology, the defense of the environment for many political parties.

In the western world, green is associated with aliens (E.T), heirs of medieval demons. When the billionaire Elon Musk, upon his appointment on January 20, 2025 by presidential decree to head the department of government efficiency (DOGE), sent his "DOGE Kids" to collect sensitive data from administrations (including the Treasury and Defense) and federal agencies (2), US employees had to think of an invasion of E.T. These young boys between 18 and 25 years old, without any government experience or authorization to access sensitive government data (names and addresses of the American federal agents, the prestigious FBI), were hired by their hero, Elon Musk, new transhumanist guru. The acting director of the FBI has taken the lead of a frond of American officials who have denounced an administrative coup d'état against these “3.0 E.T”. Geopolitical is under the sign of instability and chance in 2025.

Army green in Russia

Russia's return to the international stage is linked to the Arab Spring. But the green is not that of freedom but the army«khaki» of military alliances. In 2011, thousands of opponents of the bloody dictatorship of the Assad clan who came to power in 1970 rocked the regime. Until 2015, the momentum is on their side (3). The opposition is divided between a nationalist branch (favored by the Western democracies) and an Islamist branch (financed by Turkey and the Gulf countries). The insurgency is progressing. The Syrian regime is supported by the Lebanese Shiite terrorist militia of Hezbollah, supported by Iran. Their help is not enough. Bashar al-Assad calls on Vladimir Putin to the rescue in September 2015. The Russian president had not accepted the removal of the Libyan leader and dictator Muammar Gaddafi by the West, another “victim” of the Arab Spring. Russia decides to intervene in view of the decline of the Democratic US administration. President Obama backed down in 2013 as the Syrian president used chemical weapons against his people, a red line. This western retreat was devastating - the Russian president took control and began a long escalation of aggression that logically led to the conflict against Ukraine.

Russia's return to the Middle East in 2013 allowed a «strategic» rapprochement with Iran, «godfather» of the terrorist organization Hezbollah and declared enemy of the United States since the Islamic Revolution of 1979. The regime's «hostage diplomacy» began with the detention of US embassy employees for 444 days to humiliate the United States. In April 2025, French hostages are still hostages in Tehran on fake basis (4). The Ukrainian conflict confirmed Russia's alliance with Iran, particularly in the field of kamikaze drones (5), type Shahed sold by the Iranian regime to the Russian government. The new partnership between President Putin and his Iranian counterpart Massoud Pezeshkian, in Moscow on 17 January 2025, plans to intensify joint military exercises, training or exchanges of officers. The agreement provides for renewed cooperation between intelligence services “to strengthen national security and counter common threats”. According to Clément Therme, an expert on relations between Iran and Russia at the Université Paul Valéry in Montpellier (France), since the fall of the USSR (1991), the Kremlin has been working with rivals from the United States (Iran, North Korea) to balance out the imbalance of power. The alliance with Iran allows indirect threats against the West with the «allies» of Tehran - Houthis in Yemen who harass western boats in red sea, Hezbollah in Lebanon who terrorizes its population and threatens its neighbors (explosion of the port of Beirut in 2020, active participation in international drug trafficking, racket of the Lebanese diaspora...). For Tehran, the partnership with Moscow must allow a technological sharing, a «jihad of knowledge». For Russian diplomacy, in Iran as in Syria, green is not synonymous with peace or freedom for the Iranian or Syrian people

Soylent green in Ukraine

«Soylent Green» (6) is an American anticipation film released in 1973, the beginning of the first oil crisis with a conflict in the Middle East, which would lead to a major economic crisis and massive ecological mobilization in many countries. Many experts were beginning to sound the alarm bell about the finitude of the blue planet, Earth. The film anticipated the future of our world. Overwhelmed by suffocating heat due to the predicted greenhouse effect, humans have exhausted almost all their natural resources. The oceans have dried up. The pollution is total and causes thousands of people to die prematurely, a very Malthusian way of solving the problem of overpopulation. A company called “Soylent”, in charge of food distribution, offers pre-packaged food in the form of tablets to feed a poor population, always first victim of climate change. The police are very repressive, a worrying symptom of a deeply unequal society. Detective Thorn, assisted by the memory of humanity, the old professor Sol Roth, discovers that society has become anthropophagic. The tablets are made from human flesh. Only one caste of privileged people escapes the nightmare and death programmed by others.

The Ukrainian reality may be closer to this chaos. The Russian armed forces (RAF) have sown the seeds of an ecological catastrophe. Two years of the Russian war in Ukraine (2022-2024) emitted as many greenhouse gases into the atmosphere as an industrialized country like the Netherlands did in one year (7). This is the main finding of a report by the Iggaw, a research group funded by German and Swedish governments, and the European Climate Foundation (8). One-third of emissions are related to military activities, manufacturing explosives and ammunition, fuel used by Russian and Ukrainian troops. Another third is related to the amount of steel and concrete needed to rebuild schools, houses, bridges, factories, dams and water treatment plants damaged or destroyed by the conflict. A final third was generated by fires, hijacking of commercial aircraft, strikes on energy infrastructure and in the displacement of nearly 7 million Ukrainians and Russians.

For researcher Lennard de Klerk, Russia has a considerable debt to Ukraine but also to the whole planet, a «carbon conflict» as much as military. The first populations to be hit will be the countries of the South (also called Global South) whose situation Vladimir Putin aggravates. The warming of the oceans will cause millions of climate refugees in all regions of the world. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) predicts that by 2050, more than one billion people in the world could be exposed to climate risks, such as rising sea levels, floods, droughts and other natural disasters. Nearly 216 million people will need to move within their country by 2050, according to the World Bank (9).

Green spring in Europe

The Directive on Financial Reporting for Sustainable Development (FRSD) is an example of the impact that the European Union may have in the world (10). It encourages responsible business behaviour. It aims at transparency in business activities by requiring companies to report on their Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) impacts. The CSRD wants sustainable practices to be integrated into business strategies, so that companies are accountable not only for their financial performance but also for their impact on society and the planet. The directive broadens the scope of information to be published by companies on their supply chain (subcontractors and business partners), resource management and Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) strategies. With the CSRD, companies must adopt a holistic and transparent approach in all their operations, for a sustainable and ethical economy.

Financial transparency is a way to combat the many ways in which democracy can be undermined. Massive misinformation has been carried out by the most polluting industries that have funded climate-sensitive projects. A milestone was set by COP21, held in Paris in 2015, which set a reduction in global greenhouse gas emissions (limiting global warming to 2° during the 21st century). To circumvent these environmental obligations, companies have become experts in “greenwashing” or “greening” their activities to make them appear virtuous. Independent organizations have competed in creativity to propose labels to measure the climate impact of companies (11). A guide to climate labels has been published by the French engineering school Centrale Supélec, a co-construction with its students. It has screened 17 global ratings and labels suggested by different organisations. Two of them distinguished themselves: the NGO Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP), and the Science Based Targets (SBTi) initiative. Questions remain: data are reported by companies and not audited.

President Zelenski and his team of negotiators demonstrated great creativity and a pragmatic sense of negotiation, considering the profile of their new US interlocutors (Donald Trump and his team arrived in January 2025). In order to reach their transactional fiber and ensure their support, the Ukrainian negotiators proposed as early as September 2024 to integrate access to strategic resources of their territory into their peace plan (so-called critical as uranium, titanium, lithium and graphite) for the United States. For the US Ukrainian expert at the Ukrainian Prism Think Tank, Oleksander Kraiev, “The more American capital we have invested here, the more protected we are from the Russians. It’s like a shield against the aggressor.”

At the negotiating table, where the Europeans are curiously absent, we can only hope for a real spring, one that brings hope and future to Ukraine and the planet. Not greenwashing, but real and concrete progress. *Slava Ukraini!*

- (1) Michel Pastoureau et Dominique Simonnet (2005) « Le petit livre des couleurs », Paris : Editions du Panama
- (2) Damien Leloup et Michaël Szadkowski, « Les « DOGE Kids », ces disciples d'Elon Musk mandatés pour « hacker » l'Etat fédéral des Etats-Unis », Le Monde, 06 février 2025
- (3) Benjamin Barthe « Bachar ou la stratégie du chaos », Le Monde, 8 février 2025
- (4) Olivier Grondeau was freed in March 2025 ; in April 2025, Cécile Kohler and her companion, Jacques Paris, have been in prison for more than 1,090 days in the threatening prison of Evin in Teheran
- (5) Ghazal Golshiri, Chloe Hoorman, Benjamin Quenelle, Elise Vincent “Russie-Iran: un rapprochement stratégique », le Monde, 19 & 20 janvier 2025
- (6) Richard Fleisher « Soylent Green », MGM, USA, 1973 inspired by the novel « Make Room! Make Room! » (1966) by Harry Harrison
- (7) News published by Reporterre (<https://reporterre.net/>) February 2024 , downloaded on the 10th of February 2025
- (8) Report published by (Iggaw) - <https://en.ecoaction.org.ua/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/Climate-Damage-Caused-by-War-24-months-EN.pdf>
- (9) Climate - <https://unric.org/fr/climat-vers-des-migrations-de-plus-en-plus-importantes/>
- (10) CSRD- https://finance.ec.europa.eu/regulation-and-supervision/financial-services-legislation/implementing-and-delegated-acts/corporate-sustainability-reporting-directive_en
- (11) Soizig Le Nevé « CentraleSupélec publie un guide des labels climatiques », Le Monde, 4 février 2025
- (12) Thomas d'Istria « Ukraine : l'enjeu des terres rares dans une négociation de paix », Le Monde, 6 février 2025

Newsletter written on Wednesday 5 February 2025 updated on 1st of April 2025

Plan International, en Pologne, Roumanie et Moldavie, pour apporter aide matérielle et psychosociale aux jeunes ukrainiens et à leur famille, et [sollicite des dons](https://formulaire.plan-international.fr/urgence-ukraine/~mon-don) pour ce faire.- <https://formulaire.plan-international.fr/urgence-ukraine/~mon-don>

L'Aide médicale et caritative France-Ukraine - envoi de convois d'aide humanitaire, des soins aux blessés, des échanges de savoir-faire médical, une aide psychologique et organise des colonies de vacances pour les enfants orphelins - HelloAsso - <https://www.helloasso.com/associations/aide%20medicale%20caritative%20france%20ukraine/collectes/aider-ukraine-amurgence-help-ukraine/don>

Le Comité d'aide médicale Ukraine - réfugiés en transit dans l'ouest du pays, et collecte fonds, médicaments et équipements pour l'hébergement et les soins via ses partenaires français, l'association SAFE et l'organisation FONDEMOS. - <http://www.cam-z.org/en/news/121/>

JeVeuxAider.gouv.fr est la plateforme publique du bénévolat, - une page dédiée Mobilisons-nous pour l'Ukraine .- <https://www.jeveuxaider.gouv.fr/engagement/benevolat-ukraine/>

Les Banques alimentaires - une aide d'urgence à apporter aux frontières de l'Ukraine, dans les pays frontaliers accueillant des réfugiés - <https://www.banquealimentaire.org/urgence-ukraine>

La Protection Civile et l'Association des maires de France ont établi une [liste](#) (lits de camps, sacs de couchage, lingettes, conserves, pansements hémostatiques, solutions antiseptiques ...).

L'Association des maires de France a dressé les [lieux de collecte](#) à travers toute la France. Les Maires de France appellent à la [solidarité avec l'Ukraine](#) . De nombreuses villes de France organisent des collectes de produits de première nécessité - <https://www.amf.asso.fr/documents-les-maires-france-appellent-la-solidarite-avec-lukraine/41122>

La plateforme officielle « *Je m'engage pour l'Ukraine* » lancée le 8 mars 2022 par le gouvernement pour accompagner les Français souhaitant héberger chez eux des Ukrainiens réfugiés et accueillis en France.- <https://parrainage.refugies.info/>

Les associations, fondations, entreprises et collectivités territoriales peuvent utiliser ce [formulaire en ligne](#) pour renseigner leur capacité d'hébergement.- <https://www.demarches-simplifiees.fr/commencer/hebergement-personne-morale-ukraine>

Bibliothèque sans frontière (BSF) - Depuis le début de l'offensive russe en Ukraine, BSF se mobilise et déploie, partout en Europe, des solutions d'urgence pour l'accueil et l'intégration des populations réfugiées. « Bonjour France » est une application pour smartphone innovante et totalement gratuite, qui propose un apprentissage accéléré du français depuis l'ukrainien, disponible depuis le 19 octobre 2022.

<https://www.bibliosansfrontieres.org/2022/10/14/bsf-lance-bonjour-france-une-application-innovante-dapprentissage-du-francais-pour-les-refugies-ukrainiens/>

La mission catholique de l'Eglise polonaise en France suggère également le lien suivant : <https://mission-catholique-polonaise.pl/polska-we-francji/pere-brzys-la-mcp-lance-une-initiative-nationale-pour-aider-lukraine/> - **Source** : conférence des évêques de France