

Nato for using ‘all tools’ to help Ukraine

НАТО застосовує «всі інструменти» щоб допомогти Україні
Захід повинен розглянути питання про використання всіх його інструментів, щоб допомогти Україні, включаючи відправку оборонних озброєнь, заявив вищий військовий командир НАТО. Офіційні особи у Вашингтоні обговорюють, чи слід відправляти військову зброю Україні, щоб допомогти їм боротися проросійськими сепаратистами. Наразі, захід ввів лише економічні санкції щодо Росії за її роль в конфлікті на сході України та анексії Криму торік, але боротьба продовжується.
<http://omanobserver.com/nato-for-using-all-tools-to-help-ukraine/>



The West should consider using all its tools to help Ukraine, including sending defensive weapons, Nato’s top military commander said on Sunday. Officials in Washington have been discussing whether to send weapons to Ukraine’s military to help them fight pro-Russian separatists who Nato says are armed and supported by Moscow. “I do not think that any tool of US or any other nation’s power should necessarily be off the table,” US Air Force General Philip Breedlove told a Brussels conference when asked if he was in favour of sending defensive weapons to Ukraine.

The West imposed economic sanctions on Russia over its role in the conflict in eastern Ukraine and its annexation of Crimea last year, but fighting has continued. Without naming Russia, Breedlove said diplomatic, information, military and economic tactics were all being used against Ukraine. “And so we, I think, in the West should consider all of our tools in reply. Could it be destabilising? The answer is yes. Also, inaction could be destabilising,” Breedlove said. He said Nato intelligence pointed to “disturbing” military developments in eastern Ukraine and voiced concern about whether a ceasefire deal reached in Minsk last month was being complied with.

“We continue to see disturbing elements of air defence, command and control, resupply, equipment coming across a completely porous border,” he said at the Brussels Forum, organised by the German Marshall Fund thinktank.

Asked about reports that Russia’s ambassador to Denmark had warned that Danish warships could become targets for Russian nuclear missiles if Denmark contributed to a Nato missile shield in Europe, Breedlove said this was the “next step” in a campaign against countries that joined the shield.

“Romania came under great pressure when they became a part of the (missile shield). Poland is coming under great pressure and now anyone else who wants to join in to this defensive capability will come under this diplomatic and political pressure,” Breedlove said, again without naming Russia.

The shield was intended to defend Europe from a potential missile threat from Iran.

Moscow says the system will undermine Russia’s nuclear deterrent because it could also enable the West to shoot down Russian missiles.

Meanwhile, representatives of about a dozen far-right groups from across Europe gathered in Russia yesterday for a pro-Kremlin conference as concern swirls over Moscow’s alleged attempts to court extremists on the continent.

About 150 members of Russian nationalist and right-wing European parties — including Greece’s Golden Dawn and Germany’s National Democratic Party — met in Russia’s second city Saint Petersburg to berate the West for its stance on the Ukraine conflict and to promote “traditional values”.

Far-rights groups across Europe have become vocal supporters of Russian President Vladimir Putin over his handling of the Ukraine crisis, prompting allegations they have reached a Faustian bargain to help burnish the Kremlin’s battered image.

The growing ties come despite Moscow’s claims it is aiming to counter what it sees as “fascism” in Ukraine, where pro-Western protesters swept a Kremlin-backed president from power last year.

“We do not support the sanctions against Russia over the Ukraine conflict,” Udo Voigt, a member of the European Parliament from Germany’s National Democratic Party, said at the conference.

“It is incredible what patience Russia and president Putin have shown in the face of Nato’s aggressive policies.”

Organisers said the forum was intended to strengthen links with right-wing groups across Europe and help shape a common agenda.