# G7 Finance Officials Make Progress on Utilizing Frozen Russian Assets for Ukraine Amid Conflict



Finance officials from the Group of Seven (G7) democracies have made progress toward utilizing Russian assets frozen in their countries to aid Ukraine amid the ongoing conflict, but final decisions remain pending until the G7 summit. The meeting in Stresa, Italy, resolved little on the crucial details, leaving national leaders, including U.S. President Joe Biden, to finalize plans at their June summit in Fasano, Italy.

Host Finance Minister Giancarlo Giorgetti noted the complexity of legal and technical issues. Ukraine’s Finance Minister Serhiy Marchenko also participated, expressing satisfaction with the progress, while U.S. Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen suggested borrowing against future interest from the frozen assets.

Most of the $260 billion in frozen Russian central bank assets are held in European jurisdictions, which have expressed legal concerns over outright confiscation. Instead, they propose using the interest accrued, amounting to about $3 billion annually. Meanwhile, Secretary Yellen’s proposal for immediate $50 billion borrowing against future interest is met with European caution due to potential legal repercussions and retaliation from Russia.

The discussions also addressed concerns over China's subsidized production of green energy technology, with the U.S. highlighting its global economic threat. The U.S. has implemented tariffs on various Chinese imports, including a 100% tariff on electric vehicles, aiming to protect domestic industries from low-priced Chinese goods.

In other developments, Russian airstrikes targeted the northeastern Ukrainian city of Kharkiv, hitting a hardware store and killing at least six people, with dozens more injured and missing. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky condemned the strikes, emphasizing the need for enhanced air defense systems.

Russia continues its offensive in the region, while Ukrainian strikes on Russian territories also result in casualties. Ongoing aggressions on both sides have intensified, with civilian areas increasingly targeted, reflecting the urgency for international diplomatic and military support to address the conflict and mitigate humanitarian impacts.