

# An Attack, New Money, and a Strangely Strong Hryvnia

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The IMF Executive Board has added Ukraine to its agenda for a December 18th meeting. Since the government has done all of its homework, expectations are positive. The only uncertainty is the size of the next tranche. The EU has already wired €500 million under its new Macro Financial Assistance program, so no one expects any surprises from the Fund.

Despite IMF developments, the main news in recent weeks has been the crisis over the Azov Sea. Russian border patrol cutters fired at and took over three Ukrainian naval vessels in the Black Sea, and took 24 seamen prisoner. President Petro Poroshenko called for martial law, which was introduced in 10 oblasts. The international community recognized this as a first case in which Russian forces openly attacked Ukrainian military units. U.S. President Trump canceled a meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin at the G20 economic summit, referring to Russia's aggression in the Black Sea >>>