

Weekly Intelligence Brief

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Russian Parliamentary Elections Results

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Russia Desk

On SEP 18, Russia held its legislative elections. The Russian Federation's Central Election Commission announced that President Vladimir Putin's political party, "United Russia," won a supermajority in the election, with 58% of the vote. It was also the first legislative election to take place in the occupied Ukrainian territories of Crimea, Luhansk, Donetsk, Zaporizhzhia, and Kherson. United Russia secured the largest fraction of seats in the lower house of the Russian federal parliament—the State Duma. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said that

the election results show that Russian society is strongly united in its support for the country's current leadership.

Russia did not invite election observers from the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), which the Foreign Ministry accused of "double standards" for its criticism of the country. The president of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly said that the decision to exclude observers violated Russia's commitments as a member. The parliamentary elections were framed as an opportunity for citizens to express their opinion about the Russo-Ukrainian war. However, the only anti-war party, "Yabloko," was banned from the

elections by Russia's Supreme Court in August.

We assess with moderate confidence that it is likely that the results of elections do not represent the opinions of citizens regarding the war, as the only opposition party was banned and no international election observers were invited. We can also assess with moderate confidence it is highly likely that United Russia's supermajority will allow the Kremlin to continue justifying the ongoing war with Ukraine. As an example, the party could propose new legislation expanding military recruitment at the expense of domestic spending.

Russian Military Helicopter Violates Polish Airspace

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Europe Desk

On 23 SEP, a Russian military helicopter briefly violated Polish airspace near the border with Russia's Kaliningrad exclave. Polish officials stated the helicopter violated Polish airspace for roughly 40 seconds before returning to Russian airspace. The Polish Armed Forces scrambled fighter jets and put air-defense systems on standby in response to the incursion. The government of Russia has yet to publicly address or acknowledge the airspace violation.

The incident follows a broader trend of Russian incursions into North Atlantic

Treaty Organization (NATO) airspace. In SEP 2025, Russian one-way attack drones violated Polish and Romanian airspace. Separately, three Russian MiG-31 fighter jets entered Estonian airspace, marking the fourth Russian incursion into Estonia within a year. Russia's use of attack drones on Ukrainian supply lines within two miles of the Polish border suggests Russia's willingness to probe NATO's response to its increasing military action. In response to these incidents, NATO has launched programs such as Eastern Sentry to strengthen its eastern flank with additional air and land capabilities while improving coordination among allied forces.

We can assess with high confidence it is likely that Russia will continue to violate NATO members' airspace to determine how far it can push NATO short of provoking a significant response. We also assess with high confidence it is likely NATO will continue to build its air defense capabilities in its eastern member states in response to the increased Russian incursions.



China Targets 25% Share of Global First-in-Class Drugs

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China Desk

On 18 SEP, China published its newest five-year plan for its pharmaceutical industry. The plan aims for the industry to account for at least 25% of first-in-class drugs in order to cement its emerging status in innovative research and development (R&D). First-in-class drugs are considered the main drivers of new drug discovery and novel targets and mechanisms. From 2026 to 2030, the Chinese state aims to achieve a leap in the industry's competitiveness and international influence.

Under the five-year plan, officials are required to support the drugmakers' pursuits of new targets, mechanisms, and modalities, while China seeks to

increase sector capabilities such as innovation, production, and overall manufacturing. The Chinese state's goals include major infectious diseases, chronic diseases, rare diseases, and pediatric conditions. The first-in-class target is among the 10 objectives established in the report. The Chinese government is aiming for China to rank among the world's leading countries in the number of investigational new drugs entering the clinic for the first time and has set R&D investment targets calling for listed pharmaceutical companies to maintain an average investment intensity of more than 10% by 2030. The five-year plan articulates a shift in China's pharmaceutical industry from scale-driven growth toward innovation and quality-oriented development, with an explicit ambition for China to rank among world leaders in pharmaceutical

production capabilities by 2030. The focus on a variety of innovative technologies, drugs, and other pharmaceutical-sector capabilities signals a broad and coordinated policy push.

With continued efforts by China to expand innovation in biotechnology-related R&D, we can assess with high confidence that it is very likely China will continue to solidify its position as a global player in biotechnology, further increasing competition with the United States in the sector.



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