

Newsletter (Issue 009/ 2023)

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1	<p style="text-align: center;">China doubled its warplane incursions into Taiwan’s Air defence identification zone (ADIZ) in 2022</p> <p>China doubled its warplane incursions into Taiwan’s ADIZ, with a significant increase in fighter jet and bomber sorties in 2022. According to Taiwan’s Defence Ministry, China has sent 1,727 planes into Taiwan’s ADIZ last year, which has grown substantially compared to 960 incursions in 2021 and 380 in 2020. Among which, fighter jet sorties grew from 538 in 2021 to 1,241 last year, while bombers sorties rose from 60 to 101.</p> <p>Taiwan has constantly lived under China’s threat of invasion for the past 70 years, as Communist China falsely claims that Taiwan as part of its territory and vows it will never give up invading Taiwan through military means. In response, Taiwan is raising its military budget by 13.9 percent to \$19 billion this year, which accounts for 2.4 percent of its GDP, among which 15 percent has been allocated to logistics and maintenance of hardware and military facilities.</p>
2	<p style="text-align: center;">Taiwan’s donation of the second batch of heating equipment was delivered to Kyiv on January 24</p> <p>Taiwan signed memorandums of understanding (MOU) on January 4 with donation of US\$2 million to assist three Ukrainian cities, Kharkiv, Mykolaiv and Kherson, with the purchase of power generation and heating equipment in the new year to frontline residents hit by a severe winter and the ravages of war. The second batch of heating equipment was delivered to Kyiv on January 24.</p> <p>To help Ukrainians through the winter, the government of Taiwan made an emergency donation to Kyiv for the purchase of diesel power generators in December, 2022. The generators have been deployed at critical infrastructure facilities and heating points set up throughout the city to meet residents’ emergency needs. Taiwan and Ukraine are on the front lines in guarding against authoritarian expansionism. Taiwan has donated US\$33 million in cash and 700 tons of humanitarian materials and medical items to</p>

	<p>Ukrainians and US\$1 million respectively to the Latvian charity organization Ziedot.lv and the Estonian Refugee Council (ERC) in 2022 Spring to help the displaced Ukrainians sheltered in both countries.</p>
<p>3</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Biden administration announced US\$180 million arm sale and 5-year military financing plan from 2023 to 2027 to Taiwan</p> <p>The Biden administration has announced the US\$180 million sale of Volcano anti-tank mine-laying systems to Taiwan in December 2022, which is the US’s eighth arms sale to Taiwan under Biden administration. President Biden also signed the 2023 National Defense Authorization Act into law on December 23 2022 that authorizes the provision of a US\$2 billion military loan to Taiwan from 2023 to 2027. These gestures fully demonstrate US government’s high regard for Taiwan’s defense requirements and its unwavering commitment to fulfill its security commitments to Taiwan under the Taiwan Relations Act (TRA) and the Six Assurances.</p> <p>In the face of China’s military expansion and provocative actions in the Indo-Pacific region, Taiwan continues to demonstrate a strong determination to defend itself. Such concrete acts as the recent announcement restoring the conscription period to a full year has also garnered the support of the United States and other friendly countries.</p>
<p>4</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">US-Japan Security Consultative Committee affirms peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait</p> <p>The US-Japan Security Consultative Committee was held in Washington, DC on January 11. The Committee issued a joint statement reiterating the importance of maintaining peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait and emphasizing that this objective is “an indispensable element of security and prosperity in the international community.”</p> <p>The joint statement pointed out that China’s foreign policy, which aims to reshape the international order, raises a serious concern to the US, Japan, and the entire international community and presents the greatest strategic challenge in the Indo-Pacific region and beyond. The United States and Japan also expressed concern over China’s actions in the East and South China Seas, Hong Kong, and Xinjiang. In addition, they reassured their commitment to further enhancing interoperable capabilities, expanding partnerships, and optimizing their alliance force posture in order to better address evolving security challenges.</p> <p>China has steadily expanded its authoritarian influence and posed a massive challenge to the global democratic order, thereby eliciting grave concern and unanimous</p>

	<p>condemnation from free and democratic nations worldwide. Taiwan highly welcomes the statement and appreciates US and Japan for once again publicly supporting the preservation of peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait.</p>
5	<p style="text-align: center;">Taiwan welcomes European Parliament’s adoption of two Taiwan-friendly resolutions</p> <p>The European Parliament (EP) adopted resolutions on annual implementation reports on the European Union Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) and Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) on January 18.</p> <p>In the reports, the EP strongly condemns China’s continued military provocations against Taiwan, reiterates its firm rejection of any unilateral change to the status quo across the Taiwan Strait, and urges China to halt all actions that endangers regional stability. It also expresses firm solidarity with the people of Taiwan and recognizes Taiwan as a partner that shares the values of democracy, freedom, human rights, and the rule of law.</p> <p>Furthermore, the EP calls on the European Commission to establish strategic cooperation with Taiwan to facilitate a comprehensive enhanced partnership between the EU and Taiwan, including through high-level economic, scientific, cultural, and political interactions; the speedy initiation of preparatory work for a Taiwan-EU bilateral investment agreement; the strengthening of resilient supply chains; and joint efforts on tackling disinformation and external interference.</p> <p>The resolutions also call on the EU and its member states to cooperate with international partners in helping sustain democracy and freedom in Taiwan and supporting Taiwan’s participation in international organizations.</p> <p>These two resolutions again demonstrate the EP’s staunch backing for democratic Taiwan and the preservation of peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait. In the past two years, the EP has passed 25 Taiwan-friendly resolutions. It has incorporated text reaffirming support for Taiwan in its resolutions on the annual implementation reports on the CFSP and CSDP several times.</p>
6	<p style="text-align: center;">Taiwan worked closely with the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) in Ukraine and other countries</p> <p>Taiwan worked closely with the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) throughout last year to improve the lives of the people of Ukraine and other countries in Central and Eastern Europe, Central Asia, Western Asia and North Africa. Taiwan took part in three EBRD aid initiatives in 2022 to assist refugees from</p>

	<p>Ukraine and neighboring countries, joined the bank’s newly established Action for Equality and Gender Multi-donor Cooperation Fund (A4EG Fund) as a founding donor, and took part in 17 cooperative initiatives benefitting 14 countries in central Europe, middle East and North Africa.</p> <p>The cooperative initiatives involved a wide range of fields such as FinTech, SME development, ClimateGovernance, SmartLighting, GreenBuildings, AI and Biotech, enhancing bilateral ties with the countries, as well as helping them in their economic recovery from the pandemic.</p>
7	<p style="text-align: center;">Taiwan Welcomes delegations from the US, Germany, Lithuania and Spain</p> <p>Taiwan’s has welcome delegations from the US, Germany, Lithuania and Spain as we entered year 2023 as the followings,</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.US Senator Todd Young visited Taiwan from January 16-18. The delegation was granted an audience with President Tsai Ing-wen, and met with high officials from Ministry of Foreign Affairs, National Security Council, Ministry of Economic Affairs. 2.The cross-party delegation from Spain's Congress of Deputies visited Taiwan from January 10 to 14, marking the first Spanish congressional delegation to visit Taiwan since November of 2019. During their visit, the delegation met with Legislative Speaker You Si-kun and high officials from Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Health and Welfare, the Mainland Affairs Council, the Ministry of Economic Affairs and the Council of Agriculture. 3.German Bundestag Delegation of Free Democratic Party MPs visited Taiwan from January 9 to 12. The delegation was granted an audience with President Tsai Ing-wen, and met with high officials from Legislative Yuan, National Security Council Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Digital Affairs, the Mainland Affairs Council and think tanks where both sides exchanges opinions on human rights. 4.The cross-party delegation of Lithuanian MPs visited Taiwan from January 9 to 14. The nine-person delegation, comprising many members of the Seimas Committee on National Security and Defense was granted an audience with President Tsai Ing-wen, as well as meeting with Prime Misitster Su Tseng-chang and other high officials from Legislative Yuan, National Security Council and Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The visit shows the growing friendship between Taiwan and Lithuania, who have both been subject to China’s economic coercion.