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## **HOW BELGIUM HANDED PUTIN AN UNEXPECTED VICTORY**

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Politico (4 December 2025)

Tim Ross, Gregorio Sorgi, Hans Von Der Burchard, and Nicholas Vinocur

Prime Minister Bart De Wever is blocking a raid on Moscow's frozen funds to help Ukraine. Can anyone change his mind?

It became clear that something had gone wrong by the time the langoustines were served for lunch.

The European Unions leaders arrived on Oct. 23 for a summit in rain-soaked Brussels to welcome Ukraines President Volodymyr Zelenskyy with a gift he sorely needed: a huge loan of some IIII billionbacked by Russian assets frozen in a Belgian bank. It would be enough to keep his besieged country in the fight against Russias invading forces for at least the next two years.

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