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## HOW BELGIUM HANDED PUTIN AN UNEXPECTED VICTORY

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Tim Ross, Gregorio Sorigi, 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 100 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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