

# A critical juncture, supreme court fallout and the music returns

**Leaders from the European Council, G7 and Nato met this week**, at a critical juncture for the war in Ukraine. Amid fears that Russia is gaining the upper hand on several fronts, it seemed clear that the west needs a strategic rethink over how to tighten economic and military pressure on Vladimir Putin, without leading to a backlash among western consumers and starvation in the global south as a result of grain blockades.

At a pivotal moment, diplomatic editor Patrick Wintour sets the scene. Energy correspondent Alex Lawson asks what will happen if Russia shuts off gas supplies to Europe this winter, and Lorenzo Tondo reports from Kyiv, where missile strikes have returned for the first time in weeks.

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**Having been leaked in May, the news was not entirely unexpected** – but the US supreme court decision to reverse women’s abortion rights still sent shockwaves around America and the world. With many now fearing what a court dominated by religious conservatives will do next, David Smith examines the political fallout and how, if at all, it could be countered. Then on the Opinion pages, Sonia Sodha argues that liberals’ faith in the courts to preserve abortion rights was misguided from the start.

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**As Glastonbury returned after a long, pandemic-enforced absence**, we bring you a wrap-up from the world’s biggest greenfield festival. And there’s a candid interview with Phoebe Bridgers, one of the festival’s headline acts, who could be on the brink of global superstardom.

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**On the cover** A run of summits – European Council, the G7 and Nato – have come at a pivotal moment in the Ukraine war, not just on the battlefield but in the contests over western support, the Russian economy and geostrategic alliances. As Patrick Wintour argues, the west needs a strategic reset – or the big trends may keep going Putin’s way.  
*Illustration: Vyacheslav Lopatin/Alamy/Guardian Design*



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