

Hungary ends block on Sweden joining NATO, after months of delays and diplomatic wrangling

Hungary was the last major hurdle to historically neutral Sweden joining NATO. Russia has long opposed the expansion, and says it will respond if the alliance establishes a military presence there.

Hungary's parliament voted Monday to ratify Sweden's bid to join NATO, ending months of delays and diplomatic wrangling following the Scandinavian country's security policy shift in response to Russia's war in Ukraine.

The vote was the last major hurdle to Sweden joining the military alliance. It passed 188 to six.

Historically neutral Sweden applied to join NATO at the same time as Finland, in May 2022. Finland became NATO's 31st member in April. Sweden's application was held up by objections from Turkey and Hungary.

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