



Russian military helicopter violates Polish airspace: Warsaw scrambles fighters

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A Russian military helicopter **Mi-8** violated Polish airspace for a few seconds, coming from the **Kaliningrad Oblast**. The incident occurred on the morning of Wednesday, September 23, prompting an immediate response from Polish Armed Forces, which scrambled combat aircraft and placed ground-based air defense systems on alert.

The official announcement was made by the **Dowództwo Operacyjne Rodzajów Sił Zbrojnych**, the Operational Command of Polish Armed Forces.

The Mi-8 came from Kaliningrad

According to the Warsaw military command, the incident occurred at **11:08 on September 23**, north of the town of **Braniewo**, in the northeastern part of Poland bordering the Russian exclave of Kaliningrad.

The Mi-8 helicopter belonged to the **Armed Forces of the Russian Federation** and was conducting a flight from Russian territory.

The penetration into Polish airspace was limited but clearly detected: according to data released by military authorities, the aircraft reached a maximum depth of approximately **300 meters beyond the border**, remaining in Polish airspace for **42 seconds**.

The flight was tracked by the radar systems of Polish Armed Forces throughout the entire incident.

Polish fighters in the air

The violation triggered the procedures established for protecting national airspace.

The Polish Operational Command reported that **combat aircraft were scrambled**, while ground units and systems remained on standby alert.

Polish air defense crews continue to maintain permanent surveillance of national airspace.

The Warsaw military command interpreted the incident in particularly stark terms, stating that, given its characteristics, the incident would indicate a new Russian attempt to **test the readiness level of Polish air defense**.

This is the official interpretation provided by Polish military authorities; at present, there are no independent elements that would allow determination of the intentions of the Russian crew.

A particularly sensitive area

Braniewo is located near the border with the **Kaliningrad Oblast**, Russian territory facing the Baltic Sea and positioned between Poland and Lithuania.

The geographic position makes the area particularly sensitive from a military standpoint: Poland is indeed a member of **NATO** and control of airspace along the Eastern Flank of the Alliance has been progressively strengthened since the start of the war in Ukraine.

The incident also comes at a time of heightened alert for Polish air defense. In recent days, Warsaw had already proactively activated its military aviation and raised the readiness status of its radar systems and anti-aircraft batteries in response to massive Russian attacks against

Ukraine.

New night of attacks on Ukraine

The incident at the Polish border is part of a day characterized by new Russian attacks against various areas of Ukraine.

In **Kyiv** Russian drones struck railway infrastructure, warehouses, commercial activities and fuel distributors, causing casualties and injuries. The attacks also caused temporary interruptions to the capital's urban railway service. According to Ukrainian authorities, in the new wave of raids a total of **161 drones** were used against different regions of the country.

In the same hours diplomatic activity continues in New York, on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly, where a meeting is scheduled between American Secretary of State **Marco Rubio** and Russian Foreign Minister **Sergej Lavrov**.

The Kremlin, through spokesman Dmitri Peskov, however stated that at the moment, according to Moscow, **there would be no conditions for the start of peace negotiations**, while maintaining that Russia would remain available for dialogue.

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