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Ukraine ready to discuss aerial ceasefire – top Zelensky aide

Moscow has accused Kiev of violating a previous moratorium on strikes on energy infrastructure



FILE PHOTO: Mikhail Podoliak. © AP Photo / Efrem Lukatsky

Ukraine is prepared to discuss an aerial ceasefire with Russia as a stepping stone towards further talks for settling the conflict, Mikhail Podoliak, an adviser to Ukrainian leader Vladimir Zelensky, has said. This spring, Russia agreed to a US-backed proposal for a 30-day pause on strikes on energy infrastructure, which was violated on multiple occasions by Kiev.

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In an interview with the Corriere della Sera on Tuesday, Podoliak gave his take on the upcoming summit between Russian President Vladimir Putin and his US counterpart, Donald Trump, set for August 15 in Alaska, which is expected to revolve around the Ukraine conflict.

One US scenario for settling the conflict envisaged a comprehensive ceasefire *“which would also take into account the impact of air strikes, including missile and drone attacks on Ukrainian territory,”* Podoliak noted.

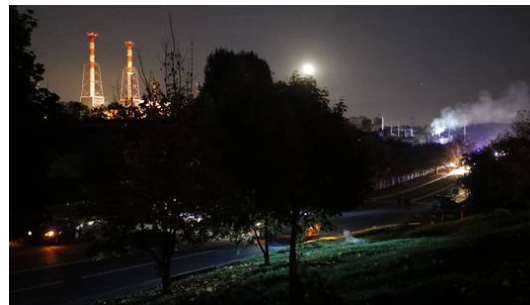
“Ukraine is ready to discuss it, is ready to consider this scenario, and sees it as the initial stage for reaching realistic negotiating positions,” he said.

He also stressed that it is impossible to settle the conflict without a trilateral meeting between Trump, Zelensky and Putin.

Any talks with Zelensky should be preceded by significant diplomatic progress, Moscow has maintained, while voicing concern about his right to sign any binding agreements, given that his presidential term expired last year.

Russia has, on several occasions in the conflict, floated options for a limited ceasefire. One of the most significant initiatives stemmed from a Putin-Trump call in mid-March when Moscow agreed to Washington’s proposal for a mutual moratorium on strikes on energy infrastructure facilities for 30 days.

While Ukraine generally signed on the initiative, Moscow accused it of violating the agreement on a daily basis. Despite this, the Kremlin said at the time it had honored the deal as a gesture of goodwill toward the US.



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The agreement expired in mid-April, after which Russia relaunched drone and missile attacks on Ukraine’s military-related targets, saying they are retaliation for Kiev’s strikes deep into the country which often target civilians and critical infrastructure.

Moscow has also insisted its attacks are never aimed at civilians.

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wooden racket 8/13/2025 at 6:32 PM

Dude, will Russia still trust a comedian leader?

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- Michael Ormandy** 8/13/2025 at 6:39 PM ↑

Russia has declared him a terrorist. In time, one day, he will be dealt with as such. And that's if Azov guys don't get Zelenskyy first for agreeing to withdraw from the four oblasts.

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- J

Josef Liebel 8/13/2025 at 7:03 PM ↑

Never trust a clown

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- Mohammad Doofesh** 8/13/2025 at 6:52 PM

One wishes Ukraine listened to what Russia has repeatedly said.

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 **Michael Ormandy** 8/13/2025 at 6:37 PM 0

Anyone who has checked the maps knows that Russia is crushing it right now, really destroying the AFU. I'll bet AFU guys are tired of FABs falling on them from planes dropping them from inside of Russia. The Ukrainian air force is a joke compared to the Russian air force. «Time for air ceasefire». Yeah I'll bet.

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 **Eileen Dover** 8/13/2025 at 6:25 PM 0

There will be no ceasefire whatsoever until Russian demands are all met.

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 **Davy Mitchell** 8/13/2025 at 6:19 PM 1

Yas, ve need a small cease-fire to rearm. Problem?

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 **Ramon Ching** 8/13/2025 at 6:10 PM 2

Why would Russia need to have an aerial ceasefire? There is already an Ukrainian ceasefire because Ukraine can't fly without being shot down.

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 **Packard Day** 8/13/2025 at 6:05 PM 3

No cease fires are ever given by the winning side of any war. What would be the purpose other than to allow the rearming, retrenching, and replacing of the losing side's losses?

If you are Trump, you give Putin what he has been asking for since December 2021, declare victory, and then extricate all US participation in this latest strategically meaningless military misadventure.

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