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Europe 'removed itself' from Ukraine negotiations – Lavrov

The EU and UK have discredited themselves by repeatedly derailing proposals aimed at settling the crisis, Russia's top diplomat has said



Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov. © Sputnik / Sergey Guneyev

Western Europe lost its right to have a say in the Ukraine crisis a long time ago and has effectively *"removed itself"* from the negotiations process through its own actions, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov has said.

The top diplomat made the remarks on Sunday to Russian journalist Pavel Zarubin, who asked whether Europe was within its rights to *"outrageously"* push for a role in negotiations to settle the Ukraine conflict.

"We proceed from the premise... – which I believe is obvious to everybody – that Europe has already removed itself from the talks," Lavrov said.

Europe long ago *"used up its chances"* to have a say in the settlement process, the top diplomat said, pointing out that it

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has repeatedly derailed efforts to resolve the Ukraine crisis since its very beginning, when the 2014 Maidan turmoil culminated with a coup and the overthrow of the democratically elected president.

“Europe spoiled the initial deal of February 2014, when it acted as guarantor for the formal agreement between Viktor Yanukovich and the opposition. It did nothing when the opposition seized all government agencies the morning after the agreement was signed,” Lavrov said.

The top diplomat also pointed at the admissions made by former German Chancellor Angela Merkel and ex-French President Francois Hollande, who said *“that nobody had intended to fulfill”* the Minsk agreements aimed at bringing the civil conflict in then-Ukrainian Donbass to its end.



“The most recent case occurred in April 2022 when, at the demand of the then Prime Minister of the UK Boris Johnson and with Europe’s full acquiescence, if not connivance, the Istanbul agreements were derailed,” the foreign minister said.

Multiple European leaders and institutions have been insisting that any potential peace deal on Ukraine must include the EU as well, ramping up such rhetoric after the US floated its latest plan to resolve the crisis. The proposals reportedly include Kiev abandoning its NATO aspirations and capping the size of its army.

Germany, France, and the UK have reportedly drafted their own version of the plan, making it more favorable to Ukraine by removing or softening several of its points. Russia, however, has already signaled that it finds the European proposals *“completely unconstructive.”*

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