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European envoys meet Russian deputy FM on Ukraine

Moscow has said Britain, France, and Germany cannot demand a role in peace talks while arming and backing Kiev

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The ambassadors of Britain, France, and Germany visited the Russian Foreign Ministry on Thursday to present their governments' Ukraine "peace" position, despite Moscow's insistence that the three countries are not mediators but direct backers of Kiev.

The conference with Deputy Foreign Minister Mikhail Galuzin reportedly lasted around 90 minutes. French Ambassador

Nicolas de Riviere said afterwards that the conversation had gone well, while the British



Borodinsky Bridge and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation in Moscow © Getty Images

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and German envoys declined to comment.

The meeting comes as Kiev's European backers have been trying to force their way back into Ukraine diplomacy after Washington signaled it could step back from mediation efforts. Moscow has dismissed the move as hollow, arguing that the EU and the E3 (Britain, France, and Germany) are arming, funding and politically shielding Kiev while posing as peace brokers.

The Russian Foreign Ministry said that during the meeting, Galuzin accused the three governments of pursuing a *“destructive policy”* aimed at pushing Kiev to keep fighting Russia *“on behalf of, at the expense of and with the direct assistance”* of the Western *“coalition of the willing.”*



The British Embassy in Moscow said the ambassadors had condemned Russia's alleged *“escalation and intensified disinformation campaigns”* and outlined a recent E3 declaration backing Vladimir Zelensky's call for direct ceasefire talks with Russia involving the US and Europe.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said ahead of the meeting that he consented to the envoys' talks with his deputy largely out of curiosity. Russia has *“never refused dialogue,”* he said, but doubted the ambassadors would say anything new after their leaders' recent statement with Zelensky.

Moscow has rejected that statement as a demand for Russia's *“capitulation.”* Lavrov said Britain, France, and Germany have repeatedly undermined earlier settlement efforts, including the 2014-2015 Minsk accords and the 2022 Istanbul draft deal.

Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova has also dismissed the latest E3 proposal as a repackaged version of Zelensky's *“peace formula,”* which Russia rejects as unacceptable. She said the plan is aimed not at peace, but at further militarizing Ukraine

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Moscow has repeatedly said that any lasting settlement must address the root causes of the conflict, including by requiring Ukraine’s neutrality, demilitarization, protection of Russian speakers and recognition of territorial changes.

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They realized they can't just ignore Russia away, reality eventually sets in and they will have to give real concessions now.

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 **Richard Castle** 6/12/2026 at 8:50 AM 0

Oh how wonderful to see Europe so willing to discuss Ukraine. Could it be due to the terrible state of the EU economy, or is it a wish to surrender to Russia in an attempt to get Putin in charge and VD Leydown out of office.

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