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UK sending security adviser to work with Zelensky – Guardian

Jonathan Powell is expected to make sure the Ukrainian leader does not do “anything that alienates Trump”



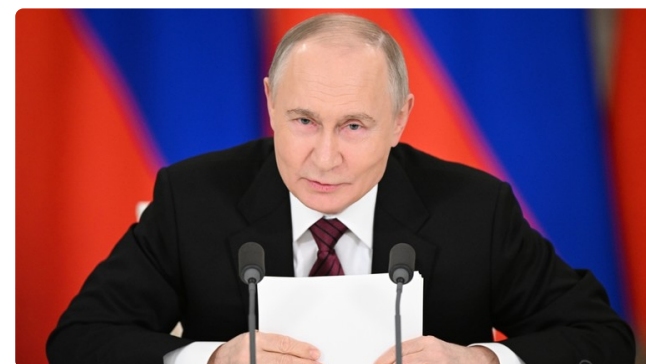
Vladimir Zelensky © Getty Images / Danylo Antoniuk

Türkiye to take part.

London is reportedly sending an adviser to Istanbul to give its recommendations to Ukraine's Vladimir Zelensky ahead of talks with Russia, the Guardian reported on Wednesday.

On Sunday, Russian President Vladimir Putin offered to restart direct negotiations with Kiev to find a peaceful resolution to the Ukraine conflict. While Zelensky had previously ruled out talks with Moscow, he welcomed the proposal and agreed to personally travel to

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Moscow has barred Western European leaders from participating in the negotiations, accusing them of a biased approach to the conflict and trying to prolong the fighting. Nevertheless, the UK is reportedly sending Prime Minister Keir Starmer's security adviser, Jonathan Powell, to meet with Zelensky ahead of the talks to provide *"background advice"* on how he should handle the meeting.

The Guardian reported that Powell's advice is expected to focus on making sure that Zelensky does not do *"anything that alienates Trump"* and equip him to persuade the US president that Putin is the *"obstacle to peace."*

The meeting is set to become the first direct talks between Russia and Ukraine since Kiev unilaterally aborted peace negotiations with Moscow in 2022 after being advised to do so by London.



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At the previous talks, shortly after the pre-approval of a draft treaty, former British Prime Minister Boris Johnson personally traveled to Kiev and persuaded Zelensky to abandon peace efforts and continue fighting, according to the head of the Ukrainian delegation David Arakhamia.

Ahead of Thursday's discussions, Russian presidential aide Yury Ushakov has stated that they will have to take into account the points that were already worked out by both sides in 2022, plus the *"real situation"* on the ground that has developed since then.

In his announcement of the talks, Putin stated that Russia is set on *"serious negotiations"* with Ukraine and is seeking a *"long-term, sustainable peace"* that would address the root causes of the conflict.

He also suggested that Thursday's meeting could yield *"a new ceasefire"* that could pave the way for a comprehensive peace settlement, depending on the decisions of *"the Ukrainian authorities and their supervisors."*

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