



QUESTION MORE



Moscow's top negotiator outlines results of Istanbul talks (FULL STATEMENT) | Russia-Ukraine conflict

LIVE

Russia & Former Soviet Union World News Business India Africa RT Features Analysis Opinion Entertainment Shows Projects

17 May, 2025 02:20 / Home / World News

Billions 'were being pissed away' on Ukraine aid – Trump

The US president has once again called Vladimir Zelensky "the greatest salesman in the world"



US President Donald Trump has said he was concerned that billions of dollars were being wasted on aid to Ukraine.

In an interview aired on Friday, Fox News host Bret Baier asked Trump whether

Top stories



Ukraine conflict could have ended in weeks – Russia's top negotiator

Russia and Ukraine agreed to future talks – Turkish FM

Topics discussed during Istanbul talks revealed

Trump wants to meet Putin 'as soon as

A Ukraine supporter at a demonstration in New York, July 1, 2023.
© Lev Radin / Pacific Press / LightRocket / Getty Images

he believes Russian President Vladimir Putin is an “*obstacle to peace*” between Moscow and Kiev. Trump

instead directed criticism at Ukrainian leader Vladimir Zelensky.

“I had a real rough session with Zelensky because I didn’t like what he said. He was not making it easy. And I always said he doesn’t have the cards,” the US president said.

He went on to slam the aid sent to Kiev by his predecessor, former President Joe Biden. *“The money is the money. What bothered me – I hated to see the way it was, you know – excuse me – pissed away. I hated to see the cheques for \$60 billion,”* Trump said. *“I think Zelensky is the greatest salesman in the world, far better than me. He comes to Washington – he walks out with a hundred million every time.”*

“Congress is very upset about it. You know, they’re saying, where is all this money going?” Trump added. He went on to say, however, that Zelensky’s ability to lobby for American aid has been *“shrinking”* over time.



Read more: Ukraine won’t survive

The US has provided around \$128 billion to Ukraine since 2022, including \$66.5 billion in military assistance.

Although Trump has criticized both Zelensky and Putin in the past, he has mostly blamed Ukraine and the Biden administration for the ongoing conflict with Russia.

it can be set up’

EU mulling ‘punitive’ new tariffs on Russia – Politico

Trump ends tariff talks for most nations

South Africa urges white farmers not to relocate to US

British general accused of killings cover-up takes helm of Royal Navy

a decade of conflict – Zelensky During a heated exchange in the Oval Office in February, Trump accused Zelensky of being ungrateful for US support and claimed the Ukrainian leader was “gambling with World War III.”

He has since softened his rhetoric toward Ukraine and has threatened to impose further sanctions on Moscow if no peace deal is reached.

Russia and Ukraine held their first direct talks in three years in Istanbul on Friday. The head of Russia’s negotiating team, Vladimir Medinsky, said the two sides had agreed upon a major prisoner swap involving 1,000 POWs from each side, as well as continuing contacts once each side has prepared a detailed ceasefire proposal.

You can share this story on social media:

Follow RT on  Telegram

[Donald Trump](#), [Trump-Zelensky relations](#), [Ukraine](#), [Vladimir Zelensky](#)

Dear readers! Thank you for your vibrant engagement with our content and for sharing your points of view. Please note that we have switched to a new commenting system. To leave comments, you will need to register. We are working on some adjustments so if you have questions or suggestions feel free to send them to feedback@rttv.ru. Please check our [commenting policy](#)

Subscribe to RT newsletter to get news highlights of the day right in your mailbox

E-mail

We offer you the possibility to receive RT's news highlights every Monday, Wednesday and Friday by email.

Subscribe

RT Features



Mikhail Bulgakov: How a terrible Russian tragedy shaped this legendary writer’s fate FEATURE

AA B i “ <> ☰ 1/2/3

Your comment here


Sign In

Sort by Recently updated ▾

 **Davy Mitchell** 5/17/2025 at 11:46 AM 0

The US president has once again called Vladimir Zelensky “the greatest salesman in the world”—more like the Zionist neocons are the greatest suckers in the world.

[Reply](#)

 **RICHARD DAIGNEAULT** 5/17/2025 at 4:30 AM 18

Billions 'were being pissed away' on Ukraine aid – Trump
the EU must enjoy pissing away its People' s money
because they still are and are still insisting to do

[Reply](#)

P **Pioneer Network** 5/17/2025 at 5:21 AM -3

If that so, then it may tell something about American people who Zelensky singlehandedly manipulated to give him this money.

[Reply](#)



Russian shield for India: How S-400s gave New Delhi an edge over Pakistan

FEATURE



After fire, fear: Kashmiri locals remain on edge as shaky ceasefire appears to take hold

FEATURE

Podcasts

[All podcasts](#)



Trump's slam dunk Middle East trip & the sabotage campaign