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Slovakia refuses to join EU loans for Kiev – Fico

Bratislava earlier opted out of the €90 billion joint debt loan package for Ukraine approved by the bloc last month

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Slovakia won't participate in any EU loans for Ukraine, including the €90 billion (\$106 billion) joint debt [package](#) approved by Brussels last month, Prime Minister Robert Fico has said.

Slovakia, Hungary, and the Czech Republic had earlier opted out of servicing the loan, citing financial risks. In a video address on Facebook on Sunday, Fico reiterated that his government would not take part in



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either the current package or any future ones.

Slovak Prime Minister Robert Fico. © Getty Images / Robert Nemeti

"It is well known that I refused to support the €90 billion war loan for Ukraine. I have also taken legal steps to ensure that Slovakia does not participate in this loan," he said. "Slovakia will not take part in any further announced loans for Ukraine."

The loan, backed by joint EU borrowing, is structured on the assumption that it would be repaid if Kiev secures reparations from Russia, a prospect Moscow has dismissed as *"unrealistic."* The loan was floated after plans to seize Russia's frozen sovereign assets to fund Kiev failed following a months-long standoff between Brussels and Hungary's outgoing Prime Minister Viktor Orban.

Orban blocked its disbursement after Kiev halted oil deliveries via the Soviet-built Druzhba pipeline, which supplies both Hungary and Slovakia, citing damage from alleged Russian strikes. Moscow dismissed the claims as *"lies,"* while Orban and Fico accused Ukraine's Vladimir Zelensky of using the move to *"blackmail"* the two energy-dependent states into backing the loan Kiev needs to prop up its collapsing economy.

The EU approved the package shortly after supplies [resumed](#), less than two weeks after Hungary's election saw Orban's Fidesz party defeated by the pro-EU Tisza party led by Peter Magyar. Hungary's incoming prime minister said he would uphold Orban's decision not to join the €90 billion loan, but pledged not to veto EU funding for Kiev.



In his video address, Fico noted that his relationship with Kiev – and Zelensky in particular – *"is marked by diametrically opposed views"* on numerous topics, but noted that being Ukraine's neighbor obliges Bratislava *"to engage in dialogue"* with the Kiev regime, in particular to ensure continued energy transit.

Fico said he held a call with Zelensky on Sunday to discuss future meetings and visits. While Zelensky claimed after the call he had secured Fico's backing for Ukraine's EU bid, the Slovak leader downplayed this,



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saying he merely sees “more advantages... than disadvantages” in potential membership, including reducing the risk of “battle-hardened Ukrainian soldiers” turning to organized crime and posing risks to nearby states after the conflict ends. He noted, however, that some of Kiev’s strongest backers in the EU are also among the most opposed to its membership, calling it “a cruel paradox.”

[READ MORE: Baltic states to deny airspace to Fico’s plane for Moscow Victory Day trip](#)

Fico has long opposed Western aid to Kiev, saying it prolongs the conflict, and has criticized anti-Russia sanctions as harmful to the EU. Under his leadership, Bratislava – along with Budapest – has [challenged](#) the bloc’s plan to phase out Russian fossil fuels by 2027, calling it “economic sabotage.” He maintains close ties with Russia and plans to attend the 2026 Victory Day parade in Moscow later this week.

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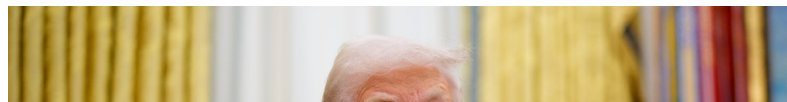
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The chancellor insists that the indefinite delay of the stationing had nothing to do with his row with the US president

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