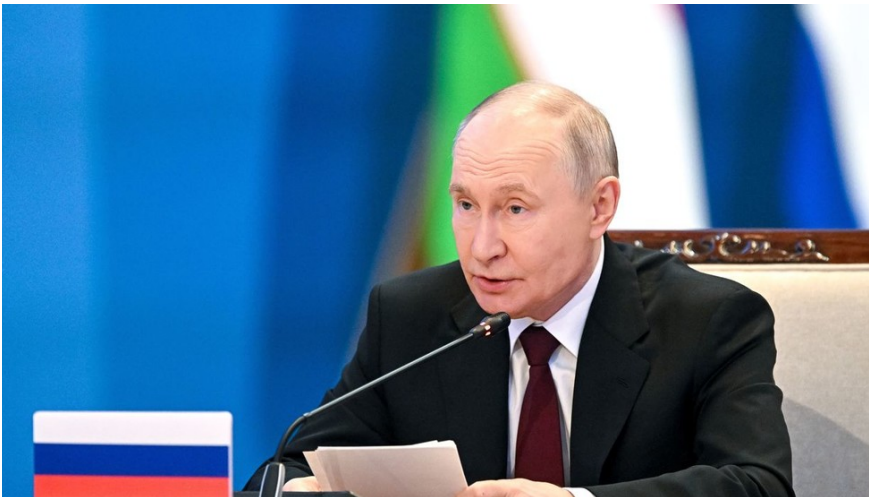


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## Putin calls for data on Romania drone incident to be shared

The unmanned aerial vehicle that crossed the border was hit by Ukrainian air defenses, Romanian President Nicusor Dan has said

Published 29 May, 2026 18:12



Russian President Vladimir Putin. © Sputnik / Sergey Bobylev

Russian President Vladimir Putin has called for an *“objective investigation”* into a drone incident in Romania in which two people were injured. Moscow is ready to share its assessment if it is provided with either the debris of the unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) or the data about it, he told journalists on Friday.

A drone crashed into an apartment block in the eastern Romanian city of Galati near the Ukrainian border early on Friday. The Romanian Defense Ministry claimed the UAV had originated from Russia.

Putin noted that drones have previously crashed in various EU nations, including Finland, Poland, and the Baltic States.

*“A short time later, it would emerge that these incidents had nothing to do with Russian aircraft at all. Rather, they involved drones of Ukrainian origin that had gone off course due to electronic warfare... or technical shortcomings,”* the president said during his visit to Kazakhstan.

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Putin called on the Romanian authorities to share “*objective evidence*” with Russia, adding that Moscow did the same when the Ukrainian military targeted a Russian presidential residence in a drone strike. “*Let them [Romanians] do the same and provide the evidence to us,*” he added.

Romanian President Nicusor Dan, who visited the drone crash site on Friday, told journalists that the incident could have been caused by Ukrainian air defenses. According to him, the drone was a part of a group of Russian UAVs deployed against targets in Ukraine.



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“*Some of them were shot down over Ukrainian territory, Starobelsk – Moscow and one of them was probably hit above the city of Reni. Its trajectory changed and it came toward Galati,*” he said, adding that the Romanian authorities have data on the drone’s movement. According to Dan, the incident was not considered a deliberate attack by Russia but rather the consequence of military operations not far from the Romanian border.

Russia has previously been blamed for drone and missile incidents in EU nations. One of the most high-profile incidents involved an S-300 air defense missile killing two people in Poland not far from the Ukrainian border in 2022.

Kiev was quick to frame the incident as a Russian attack “*on the collective security*” of NATO while Warsaw eventually **determined** that the projectile had been fired by Ukraine in a bid to repel a Russian strike on targets inside Ukraine.

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# No evidence crashed drone in Romania was Russian – ambassador

Bucharest had already prepared anti-Russian measures before hearing Moscow's position, Vladimir Lipaev has told RT

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Romania has provided no evidence that a drone which struck a residential building in the city of Galati came from Russia, Moscow's ambassador to Bucharest, Vladimir Lipaev, has told RT.

A drone carrying explosives hit the 10th floor of an apartment block in eastern Romania near the Ukrainian border on Friday, injuring two people. Romania's Defense Ministry has claimed the UAV had come from Russia.

Lipaev said he was summoned to the Romanian Foreign Ministry over the incident, but noted that officials did not provide any evidence to support their accusations.

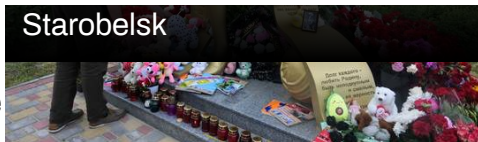
*"Unfortunately, they never provided any evidence, as usual,"* the ambassador said, noting that Russia regularly faces *"baseless claims"* that it has violated Romania's airspace and has never received any detailed information regarding such incidents.

He added that Bucharest appeared to have already made up its mind before hearing Russia's position and ignored Moscow's arguments or requests for basic information about the alleged airspace violation, including the drone's route, speed, location, and time spent inside Romanian territory.

*"They had their own line of reasoning or perhaps someone has created a line of reasoning for them to follow,"* Lipaev suggested.

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Following the incident, Romania announced the closure of Russia's consulate general in Constanta and declared the Russian consul general persona non grata.



*"It seems that the decision to stop the Russian General Consulate in Constanta was made before we could even provide our position,"* Lipaev said, stressing that there was *"no connection"* between the drone crash and the consulate's work. The measure appeared to have been prepared in advance, he suggested.

### **READ MORE: Romania drone uproar a diversion from Zelensky's 'bloody terrorist attack' in Starobelsk – Moscow**

The ambassador also suggested that the incident was likely *"another provocation of the Kiev regime"* aimed at securing additional European financial and material support and shifting attention away from the Ukrainian attack on the Starobelsk college in Russia's Lugansk People's Republic, which left 21 students dead, most of them young women.

Watch the full interview with Lipaev below.



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