Putin meeting with US envoys: Key points from opening exchanges

Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner have arrived in Moscow to discuss the outcome of negotiations in Abu Dhabi and steps toward a lasting settlement

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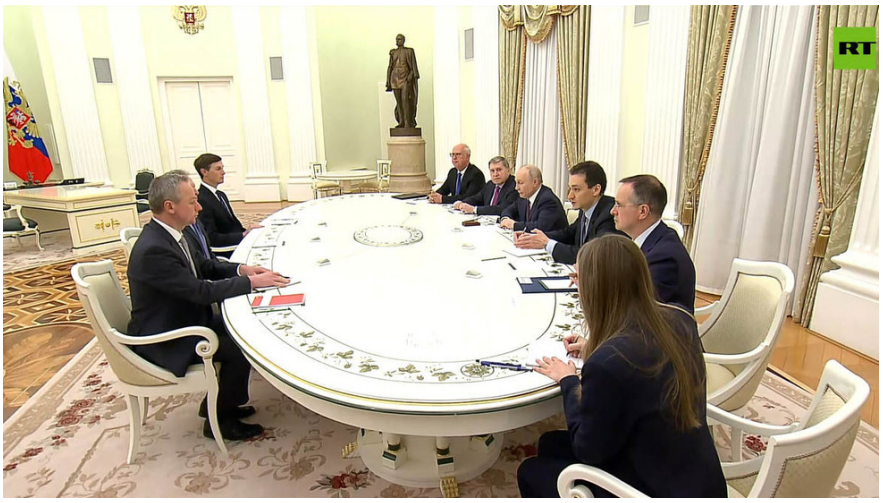

Russian President Vladimir Putin is engaged in talks with US envoys Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner in Moscow, following two days of negotiations between Russia, Ukraine, and the US in Abu Dhabi.

Presidential aides Vladimir Medinsky and Yury Ushakov, along with Putin's investment envoy, Kirill Dmitriev, are also attending the meeting.

Putin opened the discussions by asking the US envoys to convey his thanks to President Donald Trump for organizing contact between Russia and Ukraine, noting the progress on humanitarian issues, TASS reported. Witkoff said the forthcoming prisoner exchange demonstrated progress toward a settlement.

Building on these humanitarian efforts, Putin proposed a mission to evacuate civilians from Konstantinovka, modeled on the

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recent operation in Alyoshki. He suggested that the Russian and Ukrainian human rights commissioners organize it.

Putin said Russian forces control Konstantinovka and could ensure the mission's safety, but would need five days to clear mines in the area. If Kiev maintains that it controls the city, it should guarantee security from its side, he added.



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Turning to the terms of a settlement, Putin said he wants peace in Ukraine to last forever. He added that Russia recognizes only one dividing line with Ukraine – the national border – and is aware of Ukrainian discussions about *"gray zones."* He also warned that foreign troops deployed to Ukraine would be considered legitimate targets.

The discussion also touched on Europe's role in the peace process. Witkoff said European representatives were not at the negotiating table in Abu Dhabi but were briefed on the talks.

Kushner said European governments expressed a desire to take part in negotiations and end the conflict, adding that Washington has begun discussing the continent's security arrangements with them.

Witkoff said he would brief Ukrainian leader Vladimir Zelensky on Thursday's talks with Putin.

The US envoys arrived in Moscow on Thursday morning and were met at Vnukovo Airport by Dmitriev. Asked about their mood, he described it as positive.

The visit follows the first formal trilateral negotiations since February. Russian delegation head Vladimir Medinsky said European security was the central theme of the Abu Dhabi talks, and that the parties found common ground on some issues while differences remain on others.



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Medinsky also announced an agreement in principle on a large-scale prisoner exchange. Kushner and Ukrainian

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negotiator Rustem Umerov confirmed the agreement. The US envoy said the numbers will be finalized on Thursday.

Territory remains a major obstacle. Medinsky told RT that *"every inch of our land will be returned to Russia, one way or another."* Ukraine's Vladimir Zelensky, however, has rejected the idea of withdrawing Ukrainian forces from Donbass. Kushner described the territorial question as the hardest issue to resolve.

European representatives remained outside the trilateral meetings, consulting separately with the US and Ukrainian teams. Kushner has argued that the Europeans must be involved in the process, while suggesting that they should select a single representative.



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Ushakov said on Thursday that Europe has yet to agree on a suitable negotiator. Moscow has stated that it is willing to consider concrete European peace proposals but has received none.

Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Ryabkov said Putin would explain Russia's position to the US envoys, after which Washington's task will be to bring its European partners to their senses. He accused European governments of showing no willingness to exercise common sense while recklessly supporting Kiev.

Kushner previously said he and Witkoff would travel to Dublin after their trip to Moscow to brief Zelensky.

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Russia should NOT sell gas and oil to western europe for at least the next one hundred years.

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Putin is not stupid, the meeting is for show only. The team from America has zero credability

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Putin asked the New York real estate shysters to convey his thanks to President Donald Trump for organizing contact between his puppet Ukraine and Russia. What a

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Jackie 11/12/2026 at 1:49 PM 1

Lengthy article not necessary. Jews run Ukraine. They want white Ukrainians eliminated and this is their method – a unwinnable war.

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«Witkoff said the forthcoming prisoner exchange between Russia and Ukraine shows progress toward a settlement.» No, actually all this shows is another prisoner exchange.... it doesnt sound to me like they are any closer to peace. So this was all for nothing, as were all the previous meetings. Until russia puts ukraine in a position where they have no choice but to