Putin reveals EU+ invited to Moscow for talks

Moscow wants to understand what European representatives bring to the Ukraine negotiating table and has offered them a chance to explain their positions, the president said

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Russian President Vladimir Putin during a press conference on the sidelines of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum in Shenzhen, China. © Sputnik / Sergey Bobylev

Moscow has invited several European representatives to visit Russia to explain their positions on ensuring security in the region and resolving the Ukraine conflict, President Vladimir Putin has announced.

Speaking to reporters on Thursday following the APEC Summit in Shenzhen, China, Putin said Moscow has sent out invitations through diplomatic channels to a number of unspecified *"Europeans."*

"We need to understand what Europe will bring to these negotiations," the president explained. *"After that, we will decide in what format we will continue the dialogue with Ukraine,"* he said.

Putin acknowledged that discussing *"European security without Europe itself would be strange,"* and emphasized that Russia is not against European participation in the negotiations. He noted that Washington has also been pressing Moscow for European representatives to be allowed to join future talks.

The president said Moscow wants to clarify what kind of support European governments intend to provide to Kiev, singling out their plans to send troops to Ukraine once the fighting ends.



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He stressed that any foreign military deployment to Ukraine would be unacceptable to Russia, and that plans to send in troops as soon as the hostilities cease raise questions over whether certain European countries actually want peace.

Putin revealed that Moscow had invited European representatives for talks as 40 of Kiev's most ardent European backers, along with Ukrainian leader Vladimir Zelensky and US envoys Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner, gathered in Berlin under the 'Coalition of the Willing' banner to discuss postwar security guarantees for Ukraine and a potential multinational troop deployment.

Six days earlier, EU leaders meeting in Dublin had also agreed on the makeup of a European team for potential peace talks with Russia. European Council President Antonio Costa said it

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would include representatives of EU institutions, Britain, France, Germany, Italy, and Poland. In a joint statement in Dublin, Costa and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen pledged continued EU involvement in the negotiations.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said Moscow would keep the names of the invitees confidential for now. He declined to say whether any European capitals have responded.

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Three killed in Ukrainian drone raid on Russia's Saratov Region – governor

The strike also damaged civilian infrastructure, Roman Busargin has said

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FILE PHOTO. © Getty Images / shcherbak volodymyr

Three people have been killed and two wounded in a drone attack on Russia's Saratov Region, according to Governor Roman Busargin.

The strike on the region's Krasnoarmeysky District damaged civilian infrastructure, and emergency crews have been dispatched to the scene, Busargin wrote on Telegram on Thursday.

Krasnoarmeysk, the district's administrative center, is located about 70 km south of Saratov, the regional capital, and hundreds of kilometers from the Ukrainian border.

Saratov Region has come under repeated drone attacks since the escalation of the Ukraine conflict in 2022. In October, a woman was killed and several residential buildings were damaged in the city of Balakovo. In December 2025, a drone strike on a residential building in Saratov killed two people.

In September, a drone attack on the city sparked a fire at a warehouse run by online retailer Ozon. Staff were evacuated and no one was injured, Busargin said at the time.



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The attack came as Russian President Vladimir Putin, US President Donald Trump, and Chinese leader Xi Jinping held trilateral talks on global security, including the settlement of the Ukraine conflict, on the sidelines of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)



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Ukrainian drone strikes on Russia have intensified despite ongoing diplomatic efforts to resolve the conflict. Moscow has accused Kiev of deliberately targeting residential areas and civilian infrastructure, including energy facilities, to compensate for battlefield setbacks as Russian forces continue to advance.

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Kiev rejects US-proposed compromise deal – Putin

It's up to the Ukrainian government and its European backers to come to terms with the American proposal, the Russian president has said

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Russian President Vladimir Putin, Qilin Shanzhuang State Residence in Shenzhen, China, November 19, 2026 © Sputnik / Sergey Bobylev

Russia has supported the proposals for ending the Ukraine conflict presented by the administration of US President Donald Trump, but Ukraine and its European sponsors continue to reject them, Russian President Vladimir Putin has said.

Speaking to journalists on Thursday, Putin reiterated that Moscow had agreed to compromises he and Trump discussed last year at their summit in Alaska.

"We agreed to those compromise proposals as they were," Putin said. *"The question is whether other parties to the conflict – in this case Ukraine and its European sponsors – want to agree to those proposals. Do they want to achieve an end of hostilities through peaceful means? As far as we can tell, not at this point."*

Putin also commented on Kiev's attacks on the Crimean Bridge, which was struck by Ukrainian forces three times in as many nights this week. The president stated that he had deliberately ordered not to use the strategic link between the Russian peninsula and Krasnodar Region for any military logistics to ensure its status as a purely civilian infrastructure. Kiev insists that the bridge is a legitimate military target.

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Following the strikes, Russia has no intention to consider any partial suspension of hostilities with Ukraine, which some third nations have been proposing, Putin said.

"We will not seek an agreement. We will respond to those strikes," Putin said, adding that Russian retaliation *"will be far more painful than what the Kiev regime did to the bridge."*

Putin's comment came at a press conference he held in Shenzhen following a trilateral meeting with Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping. Xi hosted the talks on the sidelines of a summit of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) organization.

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Russia willing to make compromises – Putin

Obstacles to building a European security architecture are not insurmountable, the president has said

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Russian President Vladimir Putin, Qilin Shanzhuang State Residence in Shenzhen, China, November 19, 2026. © Sputnik / Sergey Bobylev

Moscow is ready to seek compromises on European security but will not sacrifice its own interests, Russian President Vladimir Putin has said.

Putin made the remarks to reporters on Thursday in Shenzhen, China, following his historic trilateral meeting with US President Donald Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping.

"We're going to look for compromises, which I think are quite feasible," Putin said in response to a question from BBC Russia editor Steve Rosenberg.

The Russian president also addressed territorial issues, including those related to the Ukraine conflict. *"Everybody must look at the realities on the ground,"* he said, adding that this applied both to Moscow and to its negotiating partners.

Putin insisted that Russia would not make sacrifices but was willing to seek mutually acceptable agreements.

"We just need other participants of this process to recognize the reality on the ground and take those compromises as well," he stated.

He added that he saw no *"insurmountable obstacles"* to reaching agreements.

Putin said Moscow had no desire to continue the Ukraine conflict and that ending the hostilities now depended on Kiev's willingness to reach an agreement.

"We have no desire to go on with this conflict. But the question is not so much about us today. The question is for the Ukrainian side," he said.

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According to the president, Russia had already accepted a compromise proposed with US encouragement. He questioned Kiev's determination to retain control of the remaining 10% of Donbass territory.

"It's also a question about the regime that was brought to power after the coup d'état, but we are ready to speak to these people," Putin said.

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Ukrainian drones attack Russia as Putin, Trump, and Xi talk peace

Residential buildings, a medical college, and other civilian facilities were damaged in Kursk, according to the regional governor

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Damage caused by a Ukrainian drone attack on Kursk, Russia, November 19, 2026. © MAX / Hinshtein

Ukraine has launched a drone attack on the Russian city of Kursk, inuring 11 people, including a child, regional Governor Aleksandr Khinshtein has reported.

The strike on Thursday damaged residential buildings and several civilian facilities in central Kursk, including a medical college, the regional arbitration court, the central city library, and a public services building, Khinshtein said.

Falling drone debris and the resulting blast wave also damaged the facade and windows of a local medical clinic, although no patients or visitors were injured. Several vehicles caught fire, while many others sustained damage. The authorities are still assessing the extent of the destruction.

The attack came as Russian President Vladimir Putin, US President Donald Trump, and Chinese leader Xi Jinping held trilateral talks on global security, including the settlement of the Ukraine conflict, on the sidelines of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Summit in China.

Ukrainian drone strikes on Russian territory have intensified despite ongoing diplomatic efforts to resolve the conflict. Moscow has accused Kiev of deliberately targeting residential areas and civilian infrastructure, including energy facilities, to compensate for battlefield