

Putin’s key remarks on peace talks and Europe’s ‘schizophrenia’ (VIDEO)

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The Russian president outlined what is needed for a lasting settlement, highlighting Kiev’s duplicity on territorial disputes and its brutal conscription methods

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Russian President Vladimir Putin. © Sputnik / Gavriil Grigorov

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but will achieve its objectives regardless, Russian President Vladimir Putin told journalist Pavel Zarubin on Thursday. He also outright rejected *“schizophrenic”* claims in Western media that Moscow could be seeking a war with Europe.

Putin’s comments followed nearly three hours of talks with US envoy Steve Witkoff in St. Petersburg on Wednesday. Witkoff brought new peace talk proposals following his own discussions with Vladimir Zelensky, Finnish President Alexander Stubb, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen’s Chief of Staff Bjoern Siebert, and Norwegian Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Store in Oslo.

The new diplomatic engagement comes after Putin’s October 9 agreement with US President Donald Trump on Russian diesel supplies, whereby Washington eased fuel export restrictions while engaging with Moscow on broader economic cooperation.

Lasting peace, rather than a temporary pause

Putin confirmed Russia’s readiness to resume trilateral contacts with the US and Ukraine, focusing on security arrangements for both countries after a final settlement. The goal is to achieve definitive peace agreements, rather than *“a suspension of hostilities for some short period,”* he stressed.

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The Russian leader also stated that he agrees with Witkoff’s argument that such discussions would also need to address Europe’s wider security architecture.

Kremlin aide Yury Ushakov previously suggested the talks could resume around mid-November, potentially in Abu Dhabi.

Putin said an agreement was possible, but insisted that *“all the goals of the special military operation will be achieved”* one way or another.



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Europe's 'political schizophrenia'

European claims that Russia poses a military threat and preparations for confrontation amount to *"political schizophrenia,"* Putin said, arguing that European populations do not want war with Russia and explicitly rejected suggestions that Moscow is preparing to attack them.

"We do not want, we are not preparing for any war with Europe," he said.

Putin described inflicting a strategic defeat on Russia as unrealistic, expressing hope that its opponents would recognize that peaceful relations better serve their own populations.

'Historic Russia' and the territorial question

Asked about Zelensky's recent comments to Fox News that he would be willing to give up 25% of his territories in order to freeze

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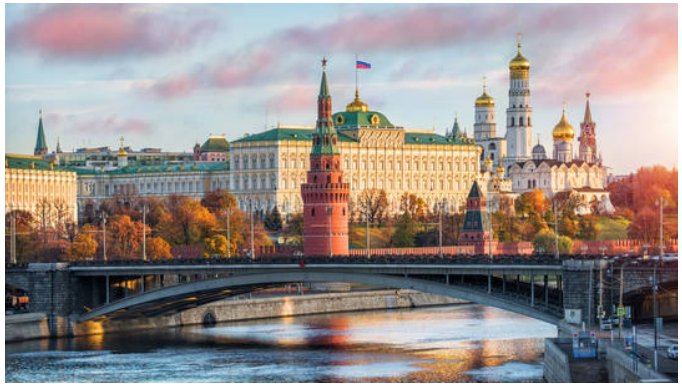
the conflict on the current battle lines, Putin rejected the premise.

"It is not their territory, it is the territory of historic Russia," he said, citing residents' votes for independence and subsequently for reunification with the Russian Federation.

He acknowledged that the issue remained disputed, but argued that describing these developments as Ukraine losing territory was inappropriate.

Fighting 'to the last Ukrainian'

Putin called it *"incomprehensible"* that Kiev expects that *"the entire world should pay them, fight for them, supply them with weapons, ammunition, equipment,"* and stressed that Russia has no desire to fight Ukraine.



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"If Ukraine's current leadership wants to wage war, let them fight. But why do they think everyone should pay for it and supply them

with weapons?" Putin questioned.

He noted that much of this desire for war can be attributed to foreign countries that want to fight against Russia in order to weaken it and have promised support to Kiev.

However, Putin stressed that these foreign entities are prepared to fight until *"the last Ukrainian"* and questioned whether Ukraine's leadership similarly treats its citizens as expendable cannon fodder.

Putin accused Ukrainian authorities of rounding up men *"like stray dogs"* and forcibly sending them to the front, undermining motivation. He also argued that nationalist groups that carry out this so-called *"busification"* do not always bear the frontline burden themselves.



He recalled that, according to official figures, there have been half a million deserters in Ukraine and over 300,000 criminal cases opened, adding that the actual numbers could be significantly higher.

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Shared history and missed opportunities

Putin said Moscow had sought a negotiated resolution with Kiev since 2014, including through the Minsk agreements intended to settle the Donbass conflict. He blamed Ukrainian authorities for repeatedly rejecting opportunities to reach an agreement before Russia's military operation began in 2022.

He described Ukrainians as a people closely related to Russians, pointing to genetic research that has shown they are *"one people."* However, he acknowledged that some wished to identify differently and said Russia accepted that reality.

"We are ready even now to negotiate and seek solutions to this difficult, complicated situation," Putin said. *"Everything can be agreed upon."*

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