

Putin explains why he welcomed rare call from Nordic leaders

The president says Russia supports efforts to restore dialogue with Europe despite criticism of the Finnish-Norwegian initiative

Published 29 Oct, 2026 23:11 | Updated 30 Oct, 2026 05:25



Russian President Vladimir Putin at an event in Moscow, October 29, 2026. © Aleksandr Kazakov /

Top stories



Russian military clears mines for Melania Trump's aid mission (VIDEO)

Deadly train disaster deepens political crisis in Spain

US reporters to monitor Russia-Ukraine truce in frontline town – Melania Trump

'American psychological warfare': Call of Duty slammed for using disaster footage

Sputnik

Russian President Vladimir Putin says he welcomed the rare phone call from the leaders of Finland and Norway, adding that Moscow has always supported efforts to normalize relations with European countries.

Finnish President Alexander Stubb and Norwegian Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Store spoke with Putin on Tuesday, breaking with the longstanding practice among European leaders of avoiding direct contact with Moscow since the escalation of the Ukraine conflict in February 2022. The initiative drew criticism from Danish Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen, who questioned its effectiveness and said it was not coordinated with European partners.

At a press conference in the Kremlin on Thursday, Putin said he welcomes dialogue with Western countries despite their military support for Ukraine and sanctions on Russia.

"I believe it was the right thing to do. After all, there are people in Europe who, unlike some others, do not want to inflict a 'strategic defeat' on Russia but instead want to establish some kind of constructive dialogue," he stated.

He added that Russia will support *"any steps aimed at restoring full-fledged and comprehensive relations"* with European countries, whether through the EU or on a bilateral basis.

Putin reiterated that Russia is not seeking a broader conflict with the EU or NATO. *"We do not want any war with Europe. If some of them want one, let them prepare. But they have not achieved their goal of inflicting a 'strategic defeat' on Russia, and it is unlikely that this will be possible by 2030,"* he said.

And if things go too far, there will be no winners at all. Let no one forget that.

The leaders of Norway and Finland said they sought to convey messages directly to Putin *"regarding future negotiations to help to end the war,"* ahead of US-mediated Russia-Ukraine talks expected to take place in Abu Dhabi in the near future. They described the conversation as a follow-up to their meeting with Ukrainian leader Vladimir Zelensky in Oslo on October 20.



Norway and the Kremlin disputed a report by the Financial Times claiming that Putin spent much of the call lecturing his counterparts on Russian and Slavic history.

Stubb has cultivated a close relationship with US President Donald

Albania takes anti-riot crackdown cue from France

Subscribe to RT newsletter to get news highlights of the day right in your mailbox

E-mail

We offer you the possibility to receive RT's news highlights every Monday, Wednesday and Friday by email.

Subscribe

RT Features



'We are a country divided': Who will feel betrayed by Israel's next government? FEATURE



From Pushkin's ancestor to Mandela's envoys: The untold story of Russia-Africa ties FEATURE



Europe's next crisis is already hiding behind the riots FEATURE

Podcasts All podcasts

Read more: Two European leaders called Putin. Why did it cause such a stir?

Trump, with whom he has frequently discussed the Ukraine conflict, earning him the nickname 'the Trump whisperer' in the media.

The Finnish leader noted his country's long experience of dealing with Russia. Finland shares a 1,340-kilometer border with its eastern neighbor and maintained peaceful, if sometimes uneasy, relations with Moscow throughout the Cold War.

The call came amid growing tensions between Kiev and Washington after Trump lifted sanctions on Russian diesel exports and subsequently waived additional restrictions following Zelensky's refusal to halt strikes on Russian oil refineries, which Trump blamed for soaring fuel prices.

Moscow has accused European leaders of sabotaging the 2022 peace talks with Ukraine and seeking to undermine Trump's ongoing efforts to broker a deal.

You can share this story on social media:

Finland, Norway, Russia, Vladimir Putin

Please check our commenting policy. If you have questions or suggestions feel free to send them to feedback@rttv.ru.

Warfare state
0:00 26:54
Conversation with three-time Grammy winner and UN Goodwill Ambassador Ricky Kej
0:00 28:25

Your comment here

Sign In

Sort by **Recently updated**

Kirk Wiggins 10/30/2026 at 3:54 AM 6

Putin may very well be the best diplomat the World has ever had. He engages in discussion where others shy away. Without dialogue, understanding and agreements cannot happen. He is willing to talk tob «leaders» that are intent upon destroying him and Russia but, with his courage he still meets with them. No one else does this. The «Leaders» of the West cower and they threaten while they are nothing but scared children in their countries. Macron, Merz, Burnham, and others are nothing but puppets shivering in their suits. They are not real men, they are less than ants. The West is now the «Lest»

Reply

Peter Darrach 10/30/2026 at 4:55 AM 0

Agree

Reply

hasan demirci 10/30/2026 at 7:47 AM 0

You have summed it up in an eloquent way.

Reply

Pathway Finance 10/30/2026 at 7:44 AM 0

Nordic leaders (Creatures) are in fear?

Reply

David Collishaw 10/30/2026 at 2:00 AM 3

both know that NATO can't do a thing to defend them when they already admitted that the Baltics are out of reach.

both are suffering economically without Russia – Norway less so but they know how precarious it is.

Reply

The Dude 10/30/2026 at 6:35 AM -1

But only russia gets bombed daily like a 3rd world nation...lol

Reply

hasan demirci 10/30/2026 at 7:42 AM 0

If it makes you feel good, go on self-pleasuring yourself. However, it is the result that counts and Russia is defeating all of the Western club alone in Ukraine. In a couple of months, Ukraine will have to surrender unconditionally and the rest of the world will think twice before engaging with the western club that has gone berserk; unable to accept that their prime days are over.

Reply

alain foveaux 10/30/2026 at 6:51 AM 0

Finally having the sense to put their own countries ahead of the fake universe named EU

Reply

1964Sokol 10/30/2026 at 6:51 AM 1

Norwegian Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Støre is a two-faced snake. Norway is the per capita largest supporter of Ukraine. The Norwegian military training center «Camp Jomsborg» in Poland educate 7000 Ukrainian soldiers/terrorist yearly to kill Russians more efficiently. The Norwegian Kongsberg Group have joint venture agreements with Ukrainian company «Fire Point» to make long range drones and rockets to hit Russian energy infrastructure deep inside Russia. Recently, Norway arrested a Russian vessel in Barents burg and confiscated several Russian properties in Oslo. The list of Norwegian crimes against Russia is miles long.

I am a Norwegian citizen and have followed the work of Prime minister Jonas Gahr Støre and Finance Minister Jens Stoltenberg for several decades and can verify they are truly evil persons; I would not trust them to walk my dog. The Norwegian intelligence services are the Siamese twin of British MI5-MI6. Anyway, communication is important even with the most Russophobic leaders in Europe.

Reply