'We don't need handouts': Key takeaways from Putin's first address to Russia's new parliament

The president has laid out economic, security and social priorities for the newly elected State Duma

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Russian President Vladimir Putin has addressed the newly elected State Duma for the first time, outlining priorities from economic self-reliance and social spending to defense and long-term national security.

Speaking at the opening session of the ninth convocation of the lower house of parliament on Wednesday, Putin urged lawmakers to avoid economic missteps and *"destructive populism,"* stressing that Russia has the resources it needs to achieve its goals without outside assistance.

Here are the key takeaways from the president's address.

'We don't need handouts'

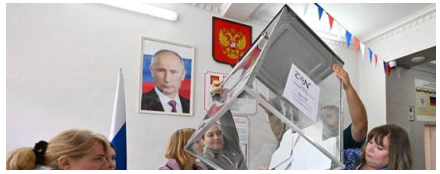
Russia will not go around the world *"begging for handouts with an outstretched hand,"* Putin said while discussing the country's finances and the new federal budget.

"Firstly, because it is humiliating. Secondly, nobody will give us anything, we know that very well. And thirdly – and most importantly – we don't need it," he said.

Putin described Russia's financial system and economy as confident, but warned that mistakes are *"absolutely unacceptable."*

He called for a balanced and realistic budget, while demanding that the government fully fund national projects and federal programs and meet all of its social commitments.

Putin also called for measures to boost investment and urged lawmakers to reduce administrative barriers for businesses.



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Security and the Ukraine conflict

Defense and support for Russian troops and their families should remain among parliament's top priorities, Putin said.

Lawmakers must focus on issues of *"state importance,"* strengthen the country's defense capabilities and *"do everything for our victory,"* according to the president.

Putin also welcomed veterans of the Ukraine conflict elected to the new parliament, saying they had already demonstrated their commitment to the country *"on the battlefield."*

He said national unity would allow Russia to *"achieve its goals"* and provide *"reliable guarantees of security and sovereignty"* for generations to come.



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Developing the new regions

The first sitting coincided with Russia's Day of Reunification, marking four years since Moscow incorporated the Donetsk and Lugansk People's Republics and the Kherson and Zaporozhye regions following referendums in September 2022.

Putin described the vote to join Russia as *"clear"* and *"lawful,"* and said the

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entire country is now involved in rebuilding and developing the territories.

The four regions are represented in the State Duma for the first time following this month's election.

Putin said residents who went to the polls despite shelling and threats had demonstrated that the Russian people *"cannot be broken or intimidated."*

Election shows 'national unity'

The September 18-20 vote was accompanied by a massive Ukrainian drone raid targeting Moscow and other Russian regions.

Russian officials said more than 1,600 UAVs were repelled, including 450 on approaches to the capital, describing the unprecedented attack as an attempt to disrupt the elections. At least two civilians were reported killed in Moscow Region.



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Putin said the turnout and election results had reaffirmed the strength of Russia's multiparty political system and national unity in the face of what he called *"historic challenges."*

The ruling United Russia party secured 349 of the State Duma's 450 seats. Putin told the newly elected deputies that they bore a *"particular responsibility"* to voters and urged them to remain closely engaged with the people they represent.

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