

# Russia Says EU Sanctions Will Hurt Ukraine Peace Efforts

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**The  Moscow Times**

Russia said Tuesday that new European Union sanctions would hinder efforts to defuse the crisis in Ukraine and urged the West to persuade Kiev to hold discussions on the country's future structure before a May 25 presidential election.

The results of self-rule referendums in the eastern regions of Donetsk and Luhansk "should be a clear signal to Kiev of the depth of the crisis" in Ukraine, the Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

**See also:**

[EU Names People and Companies Hit By Latest Sanctions](#)

[Russia Says Expanded EU Sanctions 'Undermine Trust'](#)

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