

Lavrov to Meet Kerry for Talks Ahead of APEC Summit in China

By [The Moscow Times](#)

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U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry (R) shakes hands with Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov at the Chief of Mission Residence in Paris Oct. 14, 2014.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov will hold talks with U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry in Beijing on Saturday before an Asia-Pacific summit starts, Russian news agencies said Friday.

The agencies, quoting a source at the Foreign Ministry, gave no details but recent meetings between Kerry and Lavrov have been dominated by the crisis in Ukraine.

The rift over Ukraine has caused the worst standoff between Moscow and the West since the Cold War ended, and Lavrov and Kerry failed to make progress on resolving their differences at talks in Paris on Oct. 14.

A cease-fire agreement between the Ukrainian government and pro-Russian separatists

in eastern Ukraine is now in tatters, with the truce repeatedly violated and the death toll in the east now more than 4,000 since mid-April.

The Russian and U.S. presidents, Vladimir Putin and Barack Obama, are attending next week's Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit in Beijing and then a summit of the Group of 20 major economies in Brisbane.

Washington says no formal face-to-face talks are scheduled between the presidents but they could have an informal conversation on the sidelines.

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