The Moscow Times
30 YEARS
INDEPENDENT NEWS FROM RUSSIA

Putin-Erdogan Bromance Amuses Russian Internet

By The Moscow Times

August 09, 2016

Russian President Vladimir Putin (L) shakes hands with Turkish President Recep Erdogan in the Konstantin palace outside St.Petersburg, on Aug. 9, 2016. **Alexander Zemlianichenko / AP**

After eight months of tension between the two countries, Russian President Vladimir Putin and Turkish President Recep Erdogan finally met in person and shook hands on Tuesday.

The speedy reconciliation comes after Erdogan sent Moscow a long-awaited apology over shooting down a Russian war plane, and has inspired a wave of jokes on the Internet.

Here is The Moscow Times' selection:

"Erdogan is no longer the Islamic State's accomplice or Russia's enemy!" one Twitter user

sarcastically pointed out, attaching a picture of a warm handshake Putin and Erdogan shared before their meeting...

Embed:

> Эрдоган больше не пособник ИГИЛа и не враг России!
> pic.twitter.com/EHZtPkYSY6
>
> — Philipp Kireev (@mynameisphilipp) August 9, 2016

Surprised by the warm welcome Putin gave his counterpart, many recalled accusations of supporting terrorists that Moscow recently directed at the Turkish leader:

"Putin: Erdogan, you trade with the Islamic State

Erdogan: No you"

Embed:

> Путин: Эрдоган, ты торгуешь с ИГИЛ
> Эрдоган: Сам торгуешь, сам торгуешь, бе-бе-бе
>
> — rishikesh news (@rishikesh_news) 27 ноября 2015 г.

"Erdogan was recently attacked throughout Russia and accused of purchasing oil from the Islamic State. And today he is Putin's best friend and Russia's partner."

Embed:

> Ещё недавно в России отовсюду мочили Эрдогана и писали, что он нефть у ИГИЛ покупает. А сегодня он лучший друг Путина и партнёр России
>
> — РБ головного мозга (@belamova) August 9, 2016

"It wasn't Erdogan, it was his adult son who traded oil with Islamic State — it's all legal."

Embed:

> Нефтью с игилом торговал не Эрдоган, а его совершеннолетний сын, все законно.
>
> — водка и мельдоний (@treugolny_hui) August 9, 2016

... As well as counter-accusations by Erdogan that claimed that the Russian military operation in Syria had led to the death or injury of thousands of ethnic Turks:

Embed:

> "Ah, the accomplice of terrorists, I presume"
> "Nice to see you, the killer of Syria's ethnic Turks" pic.twitter.com/V2vMGAIt0y
>
> — Darth Putin (@DarthPutinKGB) August 9, 2016

And some just found themselves lost in confusion over the sudden change in international relations:

"One day Turks are bad, and the next day they are good ... Poor downtrodden Russians."

Embed:

> То турки плохие, то турки хорошие... Бедные затурканные россияне.
>
> — Роза Моисеевна (@Anakoyher) August 9, 2016

A "stab in the back" became one of the most popular idioms among those speaking out about the meeting. During the last 24 hours, Russian users produced quite a number of its bitter variations:

"A stab in the back was not enough for Putin, and he befriended Erdogan again to be hit on his head with a scimitar..."

Embed:

> Ножа в спину Путину оказалось недостаточно и он вновь задружился с Эрдоганом, чтобы в следующий раз получить по башке ятаганом..
>
> — ///еребцов (@igorzhe) August 8, 2016

"At a meeting with Erdogan, Putin thankfully returned a knife pulled out from his back"

Embed:

> На встрече с Эрдоганом Путин с благодарностью вернул вытащенный из спины ножик.
>
> — Дядюшка Шу (@Shulz) August 9, 2016

A final touching detail — plates with photographs of the leaders — just couldn't go unnoticed and became the cherry on top.

Embed:

> In true style, Putin and Erdogan had lunch with plates bearing their photographs (shaking hands in St. Pete) https://t.co/PIoMVws9zj
>
> — Thomas Grove (@tggrove) August 9, 2016

The Islamic State is a terrorist organization banned in Russia.

Original url:
https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2016/08/09/russian-internet-users-laugh-over-putins-fast-reconciliation-with-erdogan-a54922