

# Sanctions Are Result of West's 'Contempt' For Slavs, says Russian Official

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State Duma Chairman Vyacheslav Volodin **Yevgeny Razumny / Vedomosti**

State Duma Chairman Vyacheslav Volodin said that Western sanctions against Russia and Belarus are the result of its contempt towards ethnic Slavs, the Interfax news agency reported today.

“This is beyond logic,” Volodin said, adding “those who stand behind these sanctions can be suspected of conspiring against Slavs.”

The statement comes after U.S. President Donald Trump proposed extending sanctions against Belarus yesterday and U.S. senators reached a bipartisan agreement on the extension and expansion of sanctions against Russia.

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“There is no foundation [for this dislike].” said Volodin. “You have to ask them why they so genetically dislike [Slavic] peoples”.

The speaker of Russian parliament leaves Moscow for Minsk today, where he is expected to preside over the Russia-Belarus Union State Parliamentary Assembly. Both countries are under sanctions from the United States and the European Union.

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