

# Ukraine Considers Referendum on Possible Russian Peace Deal

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Ukraine may submit any preliminary peace deal agreed with Russia to the Ukrainian people for a referendum, the new head of President Volodymyr Zelenskiy's administration told Ukrainian television Tuesday.

Ukrainian troops are fighting Russian-backed separatists in the Donbass region in a conflict that has killed 13,000 people since 2014. Ukraine also wants Russia to return Crimea, which Moscow annexed the same year.

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"On the question of reaching peace agreements with Russia, we are considering holding a popular referendum," Andriy Bogdan, the newly appointed head of Zelenskiy's administration, [told](#) the 112 TV news channel.

A potential Ukrainian peace deal with Russia should be put to a public vote, he [added](#), “so that not only the deputies vote, so that not only the president, but the people of Ukraine decide.”

Zelenskiy appointed Bogdan, a lawyer with [links](#) to Ukrainian oligarch Ihor Kolomoisky, as head of his presidential administration on Tuesday. Bogdan [was](#) an adviser to Kolomoisky, who is one of Ukraine’s richest men, when he was a regional governor in 2014.

Also on Tuesday, Russian President Vladimir Putin discussed the conflict in eastern Ukraine with German Chancellor Angela Merkel and France's Emmanuel Macron in a phone call, the Kremlin said.

The Kremlin said the call focused in part on the change of leadership in Kiev after Zelenskiy was elected president last month.

*Reuters contributed reporting to this article.*

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