

Putin to Hold Call-In Show, Annual Press Conference in 'Combined Format'

November 09, 2023



Vladimir Putin. kremlin.ru

Updated with reporting by RBC.

Russian President Vladimir Putin will hold his end-of-year press conference and televised call-in show in a “combined format” this year, the Kremlin [announced](#) Thursday.

Set-piece political events involving Putin have been delayed or scrapped altogether in the tumultuous months following Moscow’s February 2022 invasion of Ukraine.

The Russian leader did not hold his Direct Line call-in show or his [annual press conference](#) last year — and his annual [state-of-the-nation address](#) was delayed to February.

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But on Thursday, the Kremlin confirmed that both events would take place by the end of the year.

“It will be a combined format. Yes, it will be this year,” Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov told journalists at a press briefing.

Peskov said that a date has already been set for the event, but added that an official announcement would be made “in due time.”

In June, the Kommersant business daily, citing unnamed sources close to the Kremlin, [reported](#) that this year’s Direct Line was “tentatively planned to be held in November–December.”

Peskov on Thursday did not specify how the Kremlin intends to combine Putin’s televised call-in program and the annual press conference. The former event allows ordinary citizens to ask the Russian leader to solve their daily problems, while the latter allows journalists to question the president on a range of issues.

Russia's RBC business news website on Friday [reported](#) that the combined call-in and press conference event was scheduled to take place on Dec. 14, according to two unnamed sources familiar with the planning.

First launched in 2001, Putin's Direct Line call-in show aims to project an image of the Russian leader as a “problem-solver-in-chief,” as he personally addresses the complaints of ordinary citizens that regional and local officials are accused of ignoring.

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