

Wildberries Co-Founders Finalize Divorce Amid Corporate Power Struggle

February 10, 2025



Wildberries founder Tatiana Kim. **Arthur Novosiltsev / Moskva News Agency**

The co-founders of Russia's largest online retailer Wildberries, Tatiana Kim and Vladislav Bakalchuk, officially ended their 22-year marriage on Monday as their split deepened an ongoing corporate dispute.

Kim first [announced](#) plans to divorce Bakalchuk last summer after he sought help from Chechen leader Ramzan Kadyrov in fighting what he described as a "hostile takeover" of Wildberries by the outdoor advertising firm Russ Group.

Earlier, Wildberries and Russ Group had announced a merger to create a joint digital trading platform under the new name RVB.

"A court upheld my divorce lawsuit today, the children are staying with me," Kim, Russia's wealthiest woman, [wrote](#) on Telegram.

Bakalchuk, who previously stated the couple had no prenuptial agreement, [said](#) the next court

hearing on Feb. 18 will determine the division of assets.

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The Wildberries dispute escalated in September when Bakalchuk led a group of men into the company's Moscow offices, sparking a confrontation that ended with the fatal shooting of two security guards. Kim accused her husband and two former executives of leading an armed takeover attempt.

Bakalchuk and several others, including ethnic Chechens, were charged with multiple felonies over the shooting, including murder. However, the businessman was later [released](#) from police custody and the status of criminal proceedings against him remains unclear.

Kadyrov has since [declared](#) a "blood feud" against three Russian lawmakers from neighboring North Caucasus republics, accusing them of orchestrating the RVB merger and plotting his assassination.

Russian business news outlets have [described](#) the Wildberries-Russ Group merger as part of a broader power struggle between Kadyrov and influential billionaire senator Suleiman Kerimov.

Wildberries and Russ Group say their merger, which has secured President Vladimir Putin's approval, will create a financial, media and retail powerhouse capable of competing with Western technology giants and bolstering Russia's economy.

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