

## Putin Congratulates Trump on U.S. Independence Day During Hourlong Call

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## Kremlin.ru, The White House

Russian President Vladimir Putin and U.S. President Donald Trump held a phone call Thursday, with the Kremlin <u>describing</u> the conversation as "businesslike and straight-to-the-point," adding that the two leaders were "on the same wavelength."

Putin first <u>announced</u> the call during a visit to an exhibition of Russian brands, where he told a vendor that he would "definitely suggest" Trump promote Russian products on the American market. Trump later <u>confirmed</u> the planned conversation on Truth Social.

The call lasted nearly an hour and covered a wide range of topics, according to Kremlin foreign policy adviser Yuri Ushakov. These included ongoing peace talks to end the war in Ukraine, Syria, the recent exchange of airstrikes between Israel and Iran, as well as a proposed "exchange" of films promoting "traditional values."

Ushakov said Putin also congratulated Trump ahead of U.S. Independence Day on July 4.

"We noted that Russia played a role in the founding of the American state, including during the War of Independence... and then during the Civil War," he said in an audio message released by the Kremlin.

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Trump, in turn, was said to have updated Putin on his tax and spending cut bill, which is currently awaiting a vote in the U.S. Congress.

According to Ushakov, the two leaders did not discuss U.S. military aid to Ukraine, which has been partially halted in recent days, nor a possible third round of direct peace talks, which the Kremlin maintains is a bilateral matter between Ukraine and Russia.

The White House did not immediately provide details about what the two presidents discussed during Thursday's call.

Putin and Trump last spoke by phone on June 14.

Thursday's call comes just days after Putin <u>spoke</u> with French President Emmanuel Macron for the first time since 2022. Macron used the call to urge Putin to agree to a ceasefire in Ukraine "as soon as possible."

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