

Senior Russian Lawmaker Rejects Idea of AI Deputies

September 26, 2025



duma.gov.ru

Russian lower-house State Duma Speaker Vyacheslav Volodin has [shot down](#) the idea that artificial intelligence could replace members of parliament, arguing that machines lack “conscience and responsibility.”

Volodin, who has long [sought](#) a legislative framework on robot-human relations, used a technical glitch involving the Duma’s electronic system to rail against AI.

“AI has no conscience,” Volodin said during Thursday’s session, using a Russian phrase that can also mean “shameless.”

“We must not delegate decisions that require conscience and responsibility to neural networks,” he said.

Volodin made his remarks a week after Albania announced that the world’s first AI-generated minister, “Diella,” would take charge of a new public contracts portfolio.

His assertion contrasts with other Russian state officials and executives who have signaled more openness toward AI.

Digital Minister Maksut Shadayev [suggested](#) this spring that AI could replace half of “simple and routine” Russian officials, but ruled out similar replacements for doctors and teachers.

Sberbank CEO German Gref in 2023 [said](#) AI could eradicate bribery in public administration, though he cautioned that fully automated governance is unrealistic due to social and emotional factors.

A 2021 poll [found](#) a majority of Russians supporting the idea of replacing lawmakers with AI.

Original url:

<https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2025/09/26/duma-speaker-rejects-idea-of-ai-deputies-a90641>