

Putin Says Renewed Peace Talks Must Focus on Security for Russia, Ukraine and Europe Overall

By [Reuters](#)

October 23, 2026



Vladimir Putin. kremlin.ru

Russian President Vladimir Putin said Thursday that future talks on ending the war against Ukraine should focus on security guarantees for both countries and an overall framework for security throughout Europe.

Putin, interviewed on Russian state television a day after meeting U.S. special envoy Steve Witkoff, confirmed that Russia was ready to resume U.S.-mediated talks with Ukraine next month.

He restated longstanding Kremlin policy that Russia never wanted to launch its full-scale invasion, but had run into hostile reactions from Ukraine on key issues of concern to Moscow.

Talks on a variety of matters could lead to a positive outcome, Putin said, but Russia remained

intent on resolving the conflict once and for all rather than agreeing to a short-lived ceasefire.

"The goal of these talks will be to ensure the security of Ukraine and Russia after reaching peace agreements, in their final form, not as a result of a temporary ceasefire for some short period of time. We are ready to resume these contacts to achieve this goal," Putin said.

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The Russian president said Witkoff also stressed that discussions had to extend to "the architecture of European security as a whole. And I agree with that too. Well, let's see how things develop in the coming days."

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, who met Witkoff in Norway on Tuesday, said Ukraine was ready for talks likely to take place by early next month. Ukraine, he said, supported "any proposals for a ceasefire, an end to the war, an energy ceasefire as well as humanitarian initiatives."

The United States has led efforts to negotiate an end to the war in Ukraine, but talks have stalled since Trump ordered attacks against Iran in February.

Many of the disagreements about how to end the Ukraine war focus on territory, with Russia demanding Ukraine cede all of eastern Ukraine's Donbas region. Kyiv rejects any deal that would include giving up land it currently holds.

In his comments on Thursday, Putin said any discussion on territory in eastern Ukraine had to consider what he said was the fact that the area was "historically Russian land."

And residents there, he claimed, had voted to be a part of Russia in referendums staged seven months after Moscow launched its full-scale invasion.

"Firstly, my attitude on this matter is that this is not their territory. It's the territory of historical Russia," Putin said.

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