



Europeans plan Ukraine talks with Trump before he meets Putin

Merz convenes urgent virtual talks to ensure Ukraine remains central in peace process

● EU opposes US-Russia solo peace talks

● Merz hosts urgent video conference Wednesday

● Europe fears territorial concessions

AFP | Berlin

European leaders plan talks with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky and US President Donald Trump on Wednesday, two days before Trump is set to meet Russia's Vladimir Putin in Alaska to discuss the Ukraine war, Berlin said. German Chancellor Friedrich Merz has invited the French, British and other European leaders and the EU and NATO chiefs to the virtual talks, his spokesman said, amid fears across Europe that any deal made without Ukraine could force unacceptable compromises.

Merz's office said yesterday the video conference in various rounds of talks would discuss "further options to exert pressure on Russia" and "preparation of possible peace negotiations and related issues of territorial claims and security". French President Emmanuel Macron's office said he and UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer were also involved in planning Wednesday's meeting of the "coalition of the willing". Trump and Putin will meet in the US state of Alaska on Friday to try to resolve the three-year war but the European Union has



Campaigners with placards and flags take part in a rally to raise awareness to the fate of Ukrainian prisoners of war from the Azov Brigade and other military units, in Kyiv

insisted that Kyiv and European powers should be part of any deal to end the conflict.

Trump said yesterday he expected the meeting with Putin to be "constructive" and expressed unhappiness with Zelensky for ruling out territorial concessions to Russia.

"I'm going to speak to Vladimir Putin and I'm going to be telling him 'you've got to end this war,'" Trump said at a White House press conference.

As EU foreign ministers began an emergency meeting on Ukraine yesterday, Merz announced the initiative to keep Europe at the table.

Merz's office said he would on Wednesday talk to leaders from "Finland, France, the UK, Italy,

Poland, Ukraine, the heads of the European Commission and Council, the secretary general of NATO, as well as the US president and his deputy".

According to Germany's Bild daily, a first conference call will include the European leaders, Zelensky, EU chief Ursula von der Leyen and NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte.

This would be followed by a joint call with Trump and Vice President JD Vance, the newspaper said.

The idea of a US-Russia meeting without Zelensky has raised concerns that a deal could require Ukraine to cede swathes

of territory, which the EU has rejected.

Over the weekend, several European leaders pushed Trump to exert more pressure on Russia in a joint statement and warned that "the path to peace in Ukraine cannot be decided without Ukraine".

'Testing Putin'

Ahead of yesterday's EU talks, Zelensky warned against capitulating to Putin's demands.

"Russia refuses to stop the killings, and therefore must not receive any rewards or benefits. And this is not just a moral position -- it is a rational one,"



The virtual summit will occur in two parts - first European leaders with Zelensky, then a joint call with Trump - reflecting delicate diplomatic choreography to maintain Western unity

Zelensky wrote in a statement published on social media.

"Concessions do not persuade a killer," he added.

Asked on CNN on Sunday if Zelensky could be present at the Alaska summit, US ambassador to NATO Matthew Whitaker responded that "yes, I certainly think it's possible."

"Certainly, there can't be a deal that everybody that's involved in it doesn't agree to. And, I mean, obviously, it's a high priority to get this war to end."

The EU's top diplomat, Kaja Kallas, also said any US-Russia deal to end the war had to include Ukraine and the bloc.

"The US has the power to force Russia to negotiate seriously," she said. "Any deal between the US and Russia must have Ukraine and the EU included, for it is a matter of Ukraine's and the whole of Europe's security."

India's Modi calls Zelensky, presses for end to Ukraine war



Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky (R) speaking with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi (file photo)

AFP | New Delhi

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi yesterday said he was committed to an "early and peaceful" end to the Ukraine war after a telephone call with President Volodymyr Zelensky.

The conversation came after Modi spoke to Russian President Vladimir Putin last week, during which he urged

a "peaceful resolution" to the conflict.

"I conveyed India's consistent position on the need for an early and peaceful resolution of the conflict," Modi said after speaking to Zelensky.

"India remains committed to making every possible contribution in this regard, as well as to further strengthening bilateral ties with Ukraine," he added in a social media post.

Vance says US working to 'schedule' Trump-Putin-Zelensky meeting

AFP | Washington

The United States was working to "schedule" a meeting between Donald Trump and his Russian and Ukrainian counterparts, Vice President JD Vance said in comments broadcast Sunday, as Ukraine's European allies pushed for Kyiv's presence at the US-Russia summit in Alaska this week.

"One of the most important logjams is that Vladimir Putin said that he would never sit down with (Volodymyr) Zelensky, the head of Ukraine, and the president has now got that to change," Vance said during an interview on Fox News program "Sunday Morning Futures."

"We're at a point now where we're trying to figure out, frankly, scheduling and things like that around when these three leaders could sit down and discuss an end to this conflict," Vance said when asked about his expectations for the Alaska summit on August 15.

The vice president, in an in-



US Vice President JD Vance speaks during a meeting with President Donald Trump, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky and Secretary of State Marco Rubio in the Oval Office (file photo)



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JD VANCE

terview conducted ahead of last week's announcement that the US and Russian presidents would meet this Friday, said the United States was going to "try to find some negotiated settlement that the Ukrainians and Russians can live with."

Vance added: "It's not going to make anybody super happy, both the Russians and the Ukrainians probably at the end of the day are going to be unhappy with it."



TOP
4
TWEETS

01



Glad to speak with President Zelenskyy and hear his perspectives on recent developments. I conveyed India's consistent position on the need for an early and peaceful resolution of the conflict. India remains committed to making every possible contribution in this regard, as well as to further strengthening bilateral ties with Ukraine.

@narendramodi

02



If you come from this country illegally, you will face detention and return. If you come to this country and commit a crime, we will deport you as soon as possible.

@Keir_Starmer

03



Thinking of all the people affected by the earthquake in #Türkiye last evening. @WHO stands ready to support communities and authorities in delivering essential health care for the injured.

@DrTedros

04



A unique development born of combat experience. The Dophin Spider, from the 3rd Assault Brigade and Brave1 participant @BRAVE1ua, provides communications for strike UAVs over 50 km away, destroying the enemy where they least expect it.

@FedorovMykhailo

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