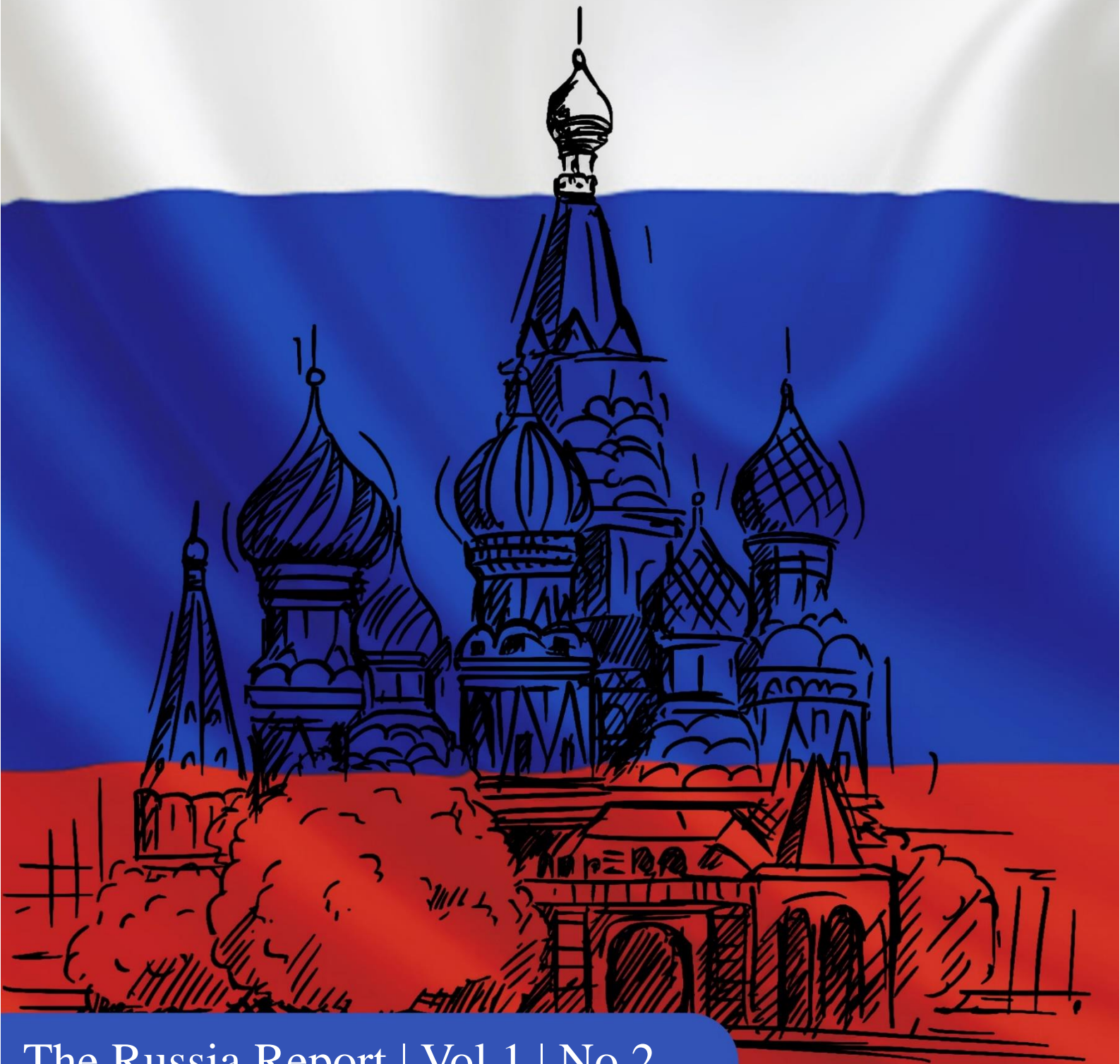


CLAWS Newsletter



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by Anusua Ganguly

From Moscow

Russian Diplomat Dismisses Europe's Troop Deployment, Claims as a Bluff

[TASS](#), 16 March 2025

Vladimir Rogov, Chairman of the Russian Civic Chamber commission on sovereignty, described the UK and EU's statement about moving to the “operational phase” of sending troops to Ukraine as a bluff. “The statement about the operational details of introducing occupation troops into the post-Ukrainian space from the lips of Keir Starmer is essentially a bluff, because he immediately stipulates that this is possible only with the support of the United States,” Rogov says. Rogov emphasized that the deployment of foreign troops in Ukraine would be illegal and counterproductive to security and long-term peace efforts.

Vladimir Putin meets Emomali Rahmon

[President of Russia](#), 17 March 2025

During the visit of Emomali Rahmon, both sides highlighted several key projects and initiatives aimed at strengthening their partnership. Notably, they discussed the implementation of economic cooperation programs, with a target to increase bilateral trade by 2.5 times by 2030. Russia's investments in Tajikistan were emphasized, including the Sangtuda hydroelectric power station and Gazprom Neft's active presence. Industrial collaboration is growing through the Russian BTK Group's light industry cluster and the creation of a Russian-Tajik Industrial Park. Cultural ties were further solidified with the establishment of five schools teaching Russian curricula and the construction of an International Educational Centre for Talented Children, along with a new building for the Vladimir Mayakovsky State Russian Drama Theatre. Russia also continues to provide donor assistance, funding vital infrastructure and education projects. Both countries have agreed to strengthen their defence, military-technical cooperation, antiterrorist and antidrug cooperation.

Russian commander expects buffer zone after Kursk Region's liberation

[TASS](#), 17 March 2025

Lieutenant General Apty Alaudinov, Deputy Chief of the Russian Armed Forces' Main Military-Political Department and Commander of Akhmat Special Forces, has mentioned his anticipation for the creation of a buffer zone following the liberation of the Kursk Region.

He stated, "Despite deploying their best reserves to the Sudzha and Sumy areas, the enemy is suffering significant losses. This shift will benefit our advancing units along the entire front. We will soon see the results. Not only will we reclaim our land, but we will also create the buffer zone as instructed by the supreme commander-in-chief."

Vladimir Putin talks to U.S. President Donald Trump

[President of Russia](#), 18 March 2025

In a telephonic exchange between Putin and Trump on the situation in Ukraine, Putin thanked Trump for his efforts to end hostilities and loss of life, reaffirming Russia's commitment to a peaceful resolution while stressing the need to address the root causes of the crisis and protect Russia's security interests. Regarding Trump's proposal for a 30-day ceasefire, Russia highlighted concerns over effective control, the need to halt Ukraine's forced mobilisation, and cease military aid to Kyiv. Putin also assured that Ukrainian soldiers surrendering would be treated fairly in line with international law.

Trump suggested refraining from strikes on energy infrastructure for 30 days, which Putin accepted and ordered Russian troops to comply. Both leaders agreed to begin discussions on Black Sea navigation safety. They confirmed a prisoner exchange on March 19 and the repatriation of wounded Ukrainian soldiers. They also agreed to continue working bilaterally on the conflict and other international issues, including regional stability and global security.

Russia is willing to cooperate with the US and others on rare-earth metals, says special envoy

[TASS](#), 18 March 2025

Russia holds significantly larger reserves of rare-earth metals than Ukraine and is open to cooperating in this area with the United States or other nations, according to Kirill Dmitriev, the Russian President's special envoy for investment and economic cooperation.

“Russia has far greater reserves of rare-earth metals than Ukraine, as the president has clearly stated, and we are willing to collaborate either with the United States or with other countries,” Dmitriev said. He also noted that while the US is interested in cooperation across various sectors, such interactions must align with Russia's interests.

Peskov confirmed the Moscow-Washington hotline remains active

[TASS](#), 19 March 2025

Dmitry Peskov, spokesperson for Russian President Vladimir Putin, stated in a news briefing that the hotline between the US and Russian presidents is still active, with video communication available if needed. He pointed out that these communication channels were largely unused during Joe Biden's presidency. Peskov explained that the hotline and video communication have long been accessible to both leaders, but the previous US administration hardly utilised them.

The Washington-Moscow hotline was set up after the Cuban Missile Crisis in 1963 to allow emergency communication between the US and Soviet leaders. While it was crucial during the Cold War for urgent matters, in recent years, US and Russian presidents have mostly relied on direct phone calls when necessary.

Russian President sends message to Syrian President Ahmed al-Sharaa

[President of Russia](#), 20 March 2025

Vladimir Putin sent a message to Syrian President Ahmed al-Sharaa, expressing support for efforts to stabilise Syria and ensure its sovereignty, independence, unity, and territorial integrity. He reiterated Russia's commitment to enhancing practical cooperation with Syria to strengthen their traditionally friendly relations.

Vladimir Putin talks to President of Belarus Alexander Lukashenko

[President of Russia](#), 20 March 2025

During a telephonic conversation between Vladimir Putin and Alexander Lukashenko, the leaders discussed the outcomes of Lukashenko's recent official visit to Russia, describing the talks as constructive and fruitful. They highlighted the significant bilateral agreements

signed, which will strengthen Russia-Belarus relations and enhance integration within the Union State. While discussing the situation in Ukraine, Putin shared his perspective on the ongoing Russia-US dialogue. Additionally, the leaders touched on the upcoming 80th anniversary of Victory in the Great Patriotic War and Belarus' current chairmanship of the Eurasian Economic Union.

Moscow protests to Temporary Closure of Its Embassy in Moldova

[TASS](#), 20 March 2025

Russia filed a protest with Moldovan Ambassador to Moscow, Lilian Darii, regarding the temporary blockade of its diplomatic mission in Chisinau, which was later resolved, according to a statement from the Russian Foreign Ministry.

The ministry described an incident earlier on Wednesday when Moldovan police sealed off the Russian embassy in Chisinau for several hours, citing a supposed bomb threat. The Russian side argued that Moldova “flagrantly violated” its international obligations by failing to adhere to the 1961 Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, which mandates that the host country must ensure the unimpeded operation of diplomatic missions.

Vladimir Putin spoke with Emir of Qatar Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani

[President of Russia](#), 21 March 2025; [TASS](#), 21 March 2025

During the telephonic conversation, the leaders discussed the development of Russia-Qatar cooperation, particularly following the recent session of the bilateral Intergovernmental Commission in Doha. They agreed to strengthen investment ties and expand cooperation in sectors like energy, transportation, logistics, culture, and sports. Regarding Syria, both sides stressed the importance of the country’s unity, sovereignty, and territorial integrity, and committed to stabilising the situation and providing humanitarian aid. The leaders also expressed concern over the resumption of hostilities in Gaza, emphasising their willingness to contribute to de-escalation and regional stability.

Kremlin: Europe Attempting to Multiply the Root Causes of the Ukraine Conflict

[TASS](#), 23 March 2025; [RT](#), 23 March 2025

Kremlin Spokesman Dmitry Peskov, in an interview with VGTRK journalist Pavel Zarubin, described the situation as a paradox. He stated that instead of addressing the root causes of the Ukrainian conflict, Europe is only worsening it by increasing military spending and considering the deployment of troops in Ukraine.

“On one hand, Europe should genuinely seek peace. Yet, it is focusing on war and advancing its own militarization. <...> It’s a paradox: instead of working to resolve the root causes of the conflict, Europe is only adding to them. Without addressing these underlying issues, it is impossible to end the war. Instead, Europe is discussing the possible deployment of NATO forces in Ukraine,” the Kremlin spokesman explained.

Vladimir Putin spoke with President of UAE Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahayn

[President of Russia](#), 24 March 2025; [TASS](#), 24 March 2025

During the telephonic conversation, the Russian side expressed gratitude for the UAE's significant mediation efforts in facilitating the exchange of detained persons between Russia and Ukraine. The leaders discussed the recently renewed dialogue between Russia and the United States, aimed at finding a peaceful resolution to the Ukraine conflict and normalising bilateral relations. Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan expressed support for these efforts, particularly the consultations in Riyadh between expert groups from both countries. Vladimir Putin and Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan praised the strong strategic partnership between Russia and the UAE, advocating for the implementation of new mutually beneficial projects in trade, economic, and humanitarian areas. They also emphasised the importance of close coordination within the OPEC+ framework.

Outcomes of the Russia and U.S. expert group meeting

[President of Russia](#), 25 March 2025; [RT](#), 25 March 2025

In line with the agreement between the presidents of Russia and the United States, both sides agreed to implement the Black Sea Initiative, ensuring safe navigation, eliminating the use of force, and preventing commercial vessels from being used for military purposes in the Black Sea. This will involve appropriate inspections of such vessels.

The United States also pledged to help restore Russia’s access to global markets for agricultural and fertiliser exports, reduce maritime insurance costs, and improve access to

ports and payment systems for these transactions. These measures will take effect once sanctions on Russian financial institutions, including Rosselkhozbank, are lifted, and once restrictions on trade finance, insurance for food-related cargo, and servicing of Russian ships are removed.

Both sides also agreed to develop measures for a 30-day ceasefire on strikes against energy facilities in Russia and Ukraine, starting on March 18, 2025, with the option to extend or withdraw based on compliance. Russia and the United States have also welcomed the third countries for supporting the implementation of the agreements.

Russia's UN Mission: Peacekeeping Strategies Need Reassessment

[TASS](#), 25 March 2025

The current approach to the UN's peacekeeping missions is ineffective and requires reassessment, according to Russia's Permanent Representative to the UN, Anna Yevstigneyeva.

She stated that both the peacekeeping and political aspects of UN operations need to be reviewed, improved, and returned to more realistic strategies during an open UN Security Council debate on peacekeeping. Russia believes it is essential to conduct an objective evaluation of peacekeeping efforts.

“Progress will be difficult without a candid assessment of why host countries question the need for peacekeepers or opt for other, more effective forms of cooperation. A political solution to the issues can only emerge based on these evaluations,” she explained.

Vladimir Putin visited the Arkhangelsk nuclear-powered cruiser submarine

[President of Russia](#), 27 March 2025

Vladimir Putin visited the Arkhangelsk nuclear-powered cruiser submarine, a cutting-edge Project 885M Yasen-M ship capable of carrying sea-launched missiles and targeting both sea and land-based objectives. During his visit, Putin emphasised the importance of resolving issues through peaceful means while addressing the root causes of the current situation to ensure Russia's long-term security. He expressed openness to cooperation with various global

partners, including the US, China, India, and BRICS nations, as well as North Korea. Putin also highlighted Russia's willingness to engage with Europe, despite inconsistent behaviour from some European partners.

Vladimir Putin spoke with President of Türkiye Recep Tayyip Erdogan

[President of Russia](#), 28 March 2025

During the telephonic conversation, the two leaders discussed strengthening Russian-Turkish cooperation across various sectors, particularly in strategic energy projects, and expressed satisfaction with the positive momentum in bilateral relations and trade growth. Vladimir Putin shared his assessment of the ongoing dialogue with the United States regarding a peaceful resolution to the Ukraine conflict and the normalisation of relations, highlighting recent constructive contacts. He also emphasised Ukraine's provocative actions against Russian energy infrastructure. The leaders exchanged views on resuming the Black Sea initiative for safe navigation and the export of Russian food and fertilisers, with Erdogan reiterating Turkey's readiness to assist. On Syria, they underscored the importance of preserving the country's unity, sovereignty, and territorial integrity, while supporting the Syrian government and respecting the rights of all ethnic and religious groups.

Russia and the World

Lavrov urges to halt use of force in the Red Sea during talks with Rubio

[TASS](#), 16 March 2025

On March 15, US Secretary of State Marco Rubio initiated a telephone conversation with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov to inform him of the US's decision to launch a military operation against Houthi forces in the Red Sea region. The operation was part of the US's efforts to address security concerns in the area.

In response, Lavrov expressed strong concerns over the use of force, emphasising the need for an immediate cessation of military actions. He underscored the importance of all involved parties engaging in political dialogue to resolve the situation peacefully, preventing further

escalation and bloodshed. Lavrov's response highlighted Russia's stance on prioritising diplomatic solutions and dialogue over military intervention to achieve stability in the region.

Matvienko says Europe's security without Russia and Belarus is utopia

[TASS](#), 17 March 2025

In an interview with the Belarus-1 TV channel, Federation Council Speaker Valentina Matviyenko warned that Europe's future would be uncertain if it continues its Russophobic hysteria. Matviyenko emphasised that the idea of securing Europe's safety, regardless of the amount of financial investment, cannot succeed without Russia and Belarus. She urged European nations to abandon their militaristic and Russophobic approach, warning that failure to do so would lead to severe consequences for the continent.

Matviyenko also pointed out that Russia has repeatedly called for Europe to engage in discussions to create a common and indivisible security framework. This framework, she argued, must be fair and inclusive for all states, not just a select few. She criticised Europe's current security stance, stating that many European nations have become "complete vassals" when it comes to security, heavily relying on external influences rather than pursuing an independent, balanced approach. Furthermore, Matviyenko noted the increasing internal division within the EU on these matters, suggesting that this growing rift could further complicate the region's security situation.

Russian and North Korean diplomats discuss schedule for high-level meetings

[TASS](#), 17 March 2025

Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Andrey Rudenko held consultations in Pyongyang with his North Korean counterpart, Kim Jong-gu, and Foreign Minister Choe Son-hui, where they discussed the schedule for high-level and top-level meetings between the two countries.

The talks covered key topics related to the advancement of bilateral relations, including the timing of upcoming political contacts. The discussions also focused on implementing agreements from Russian President Vladimir Putin's June 2024 state visit to North Korea. Both sides reiterated their commitment to the provisions of the Comprehensive Strategic

Partnership Treaty, which elevated Russian-Korean relations to a new allied level in accordance with modern global requirements.

Russian senator and Azerbaijani president discuss strengthening bilateral ties

[TASS](#), 17 March 2025

Russian Federation Council Speaker Valentina Matviyenko held a meeting with Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev to address a variety of issues on their bilateral agenda, according to the Federation Council's press service.

During their detailed and open discussion, the two leaders focused on expanding trade and economic cooperation, as well as strengthening cultural ties. Matviyenko also highlighted the regular communication between Russian President Vladimir Putin and Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev, expressing gratitude for their attention to inter-parliamentary and interregional cooperation, which plays a crucial role in their bilateral relations. Additionally, they discussed the current international situation.

Envoy: Meeting on Russia, Iran and China nuclear program “productive”

[TASS](#), 17 March 2025

Mikhail Ulyanov, Russia's Permanent Representative to international organizations in Vienna, stated that the meeting in Beijing between Russia, Iran, and China regarding the Iranian nuclear program was productive, with consultations on the outcomes continuing in Vienna.

He highlighted that the three countries are aligning their positions closely, a key takeaway from the Beijing meeting. The meeting led to the issuance of a joint statement, emphasising the importance of resolving issues through political and diplomatic means.

Ulyanov also mentioned that the Iranian deputy minister, who attended the Beijing talks, is currently in Vienna for a meeting with IAEA Director General Rafael Grossi. He and his colleagues from China and Iran will meet shortly to continue the discussions, underscoring the organised nature of this process.

During the Beijing consultations, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Ryabkov, Chinese Deputy Foreign Minister Ma Zhaoxu, and Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Kazem Gharibabadi met to reaffirm the complete inadmissibility of threats or military action against Iran's nuclear facilities.

Ulyanov also noted the negative trend regarding the Iranian nuclear program, particularly the idea of a resolution accusing Iran of non-compliance with its safeguards agreement.

Senior Russian diplomat addressed NATO's security threats in Tehran

[TASS](#), 17 March 2025

Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Alexander Grushko held discussions with his Iranian counterpart Majid Takht-Ravanchi in Tehran on March 16-17, focusing on the formation of Eurasian architecture and the security threats posed by NATO and the European Union, according to the Russian Foreign Ministry.

Grushko also met with Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi. The talks included a detailed exchange on global development trends, the shift towards a polycentric world, and Eurasian integration. The officials addressed the situation in Europe, emphasising the security challenges arising from NATO and the EU, as well as the activities of the OSCE and the Council of Europe. They also reaffirmed the inadmissibility of unilateral restrictive measures in international relations and aligned their positions on various regional and international issues.

Serbia refuses anti-Russian sanctions, says to Russia's ambassador to Belgrade

[TASS](#), 17 March 2025

Serbia remains firm in its opposition to anti-Russian sanctions, according to Russian Ambassador to Belgrade Alexander Botsan-Kharchenko, speaking on Rossiya-24 TV. "Europe now recognises that Serbia strongly rejects anti-Russian sanctions, and this position will not change. Belgrade is unwavering in its commitment to the Russian-Serbian partnership," the ambassador emphasised.

He also mentioned efforts to replace the current leadership with one more aligned with the EU. Earlier, Serbian Foreign Minister Marko Djuric stated in Moscow, alongside Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, that Serbia does not view sanctions as a legitimate form of influence.

Ambassador: Cooperation with Russia is crucial for the rapid growth of Serbia's economy

[TASS](#), 17 March 2025

Russian Ambassador to Belgrade Aleksandr Botsan-Kharchenko emphasised that cooperation with Russia is vital for sustaining Serbia's strong economic growth. "Serbia's economic growth is currently well above the European average, and the country remains unaffected by the recession and the issues Europe faces due to anti-Russian sanctions," he stated in an interview with Rossiya-24 TV channel. He further noted that the relationship with Russia plays a crucial role in maintaining Serbia's high economic growth rates.

UK's policy could result in the complete destruction of Ukraine, warns the Russian ambassador

[TASS](#), 19 March 2025

Russian Ambassador to the UK Andrey Kelin told Channel 4 that the UK's policies regarding the Ukraine conflict could lead to the complete destruction of Ukraine.

"The Americans took a bold step and shifted their approach. They realized it was necessary to engage in talks with us, with Moscow, and with Putin for negotiations. They now understand that continuing along this path is a dead end. It doesn't just heighten tensions, but also leads to confrontation. However, the UK has stuck to its stance of not engaging with us," Kelin explained.

He added that the UK has opted to continue a confrontational approach, aggressively supplying arms and funding to Ukraine. "When they pursue this, what is their goal? To completely destroy Ukraine. That is a real possibility," Kelin stated.

UK Lifts Sanctions on Russian Businessman Farkhad Akhmedov

[TASS](#), 19 March 2025

Russian businessman Farkhad Akhmedov has been removed from the UK's sanctions list, as announced on the HM Treasury website. The notice states, “The following entry has been removed from the Consolidated List and is no longer subject to an asset freeze or trust services sanctions: Farkhad Akhmedov.” The specific reason for lifting the sanctions was not provided.

Akhmedov had been added to the UK sanctions list on April 13, 2022, with the UK government citing his support for the Russian government through his business activities in a sector critical to Russia’s interests—information, communications, and digital technology.

Russia Anticipates India's Participation in Arctic Council – Foreign Ministry

[TASS](#), 20 March 2025

Moscow is open to productive collaboration in the Arctic with non-regional countries and expects India to take an active role in the Arctic Council as an observer, said Vladislav Maslennikov, Director of the Foreign Ministry's Department of European Affairs.

“We look forward to India’s active participation in the Arctic Council as an observer state,” he stated in a video message to attendees of the Northern Forum-India scientific conference in New Delhi.

Maslennikov emphasized that “Russia remains open to cooperative efforts in the Arctic with interested non-regional states.”

“Together with relevant Russian agencies and the Rosatom State Corporation, we plan to continue strengthening cooperation with our Indian partners in the Far North,” he added. He highlighted the development of the transport and logistics potential of the Northern Sea Route as one of the most promising areas of collaboration, which is gaining increasing global interest. Additionally, cooperation between scientists and experts from both countries is essential.

Slovak Prime Minister Indicates Possible Veto of EU Sanctions on Russia

[TASS](#), 20 March 2025

Slovak Prime Minister Robert Fico has stated that his country may veto the European Union's decision to impose new sanctions on Russia, according to TASR news agency.

“We cannot insist on sanctions at all costs. There may come a point when we say we disagree, as we believe they are ineffective in the current efforts to peacefully resolve the conflict in Ukraine. We are ready to veto any new sanctions if we believe they could obstruct the peace settlement process,” Fico said.

The Slovak prime minister reportedly made these remarks before heading to Brussels to attend a European Council meeting.

Moscow and Jakarta to Hold Trade Discussions Ahead of Prabowo Subianto’s Visit to Russia — Ambassador

[TASS](#), 20 March 2025; [Jakarta Globe](#), 19 March 2025

Russia and Indonesia will hold discussions on trade and economic cooperation next month ahead of Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto’s planned visit to Moscow in June, according to Russia’s Ambassador to Indonesia, Sergey Tolchenov.

“This joint commission meeting will be the first step toward President Subianto's meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin. We will have a thorough discussion on economic cooperation, trade, investment, and more,” Tolchenov said, as quoted by the Jakarta Globe.

The bilateral commission meeting will be led by Russia's First Deputy Prime Minister Denis Manturov and Indonesia's Coordinating Minister for Economic Affairs Airlangga Hartarto, the ambassador added. Indonesia's Foreign Minister Retno Marsudi will also visit Russia before the leaders' meeting in Moscow in June.

Russia Plans to Invite the US to High-Level Security Talks — Shoigu

[TASS](#), 20 March 2025

Russia will extend an invitation to US officials to attend an international meeting of high-level security representatives set for May, as stated by Security Council Secretary Sergey Shoigu during a media briefing.

“We will invite them,” Shoigu responded when asked by TASS.

He also mentioned that representatives from over 100 countries had already confirmed their participation in the upcoming event.

Since 2010, the Russian Security Council has organized international meetings for senior security officials. This year's meeting is scheduled to take place in Moscow from May 27 to 29.

Russia Urges Israel to Halt Settlement Expansion in Palestine — Russian Mission to UN

[TASS](#), 21 March 2025

Moscow has urged Israel to immediately cease the expansion of settlements in the occupied Palestinian territories and to return citizens who are settling there, according to Russia’s First Deputy Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Dmitry Polyansky.

“We demand that Israel halt all settlement activities, repatriate its nationals, stop forcibly relocating Palestinians, and prevent attacks on them by Israeli settlers and law enforcement,” he stated during a UN Security Council meeting addressing Israel’s actions in the occupied Palestinian territories.

Shoigu held talks with Serbian Deputy Prime Minister Vulin

[TASS](#), 22 March 2025; [RT](#), 22 March 2025

Secretary of the Russian Security Council Sergey Shoigu, held a meeting in Moscow with Serbian Deputy Prime Minister Aleksandar Vulin. The talks centered on enhancing bilateral security cooperation, with a focus on recent developments in Serbia.

Their previous meeting occurred in February, where they discussed strengthening bilateral security ties and the situation in Serbia. During that meeting, the Russian side reiterated its commitment to supporting the “brotherly people of Serbia” in maintaining stability.

Lavrov: Russia Strengthening Relations with China, India, Iran, North Korea, and CIS Countries

[TASS](#), 24 March 2025

Russia is actively strengthening its relationships with a wide range of global countries, including China, India, Iran, North Korea, and CIS (Commonwealth of Independent States) nations, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov stated.

“We focus on enhancing ties with the majority of countries worldwide <...>. Our comprehensive partnership and strategic cooperation with China are based on an unprecedented level of mutual trust. We are also developing a particularly privileged strategic partnership with India. Significant progress has been made in strengthening friendly relations with countries such as Iran and North Korea,” he said during a meeting of the board of trustees of the Alexander Gorchakov Public Diplomacy Fund.

Lavrov emphasised that Moscow places great importance on deepening all forms of cooperation with its allies and partners within the CIS, including through the Commonwealth, the Collective Security Treaty Organization, and the Eurasian Economic Union.

Russian-Iranian Commission to Meet in Moscow April 22-26

[TASS](#), 25 March 2025

Russia and Iran will hold the 18th meeting of their intergovernmental commission on trade and economic cooperation from April 22 to 26 in Moscow, announced Russian Energy Minister Sergey Tsivilyov following talks with Iranian Ambassador to Russia, Kazem Jalali.

Tsivilyov stated, “We agreed that the intergovernmental commission will take place in Moscow from April 22 to 26. Along with strengthening economic ties, other areas of bilateral relations will also be discussed.”

Additionally, Tsivilyov and Jalali held a phone call with Mohsen Paknejad, the Iranian co-chair of the permanent Russian-Iranian trade and economic commission.

EU Starts Preparations for 17th Sanctions Package Against Russia

[TASS](#), 28 March 2025

The European Union has begun working on its 17th sanctions package targeting Russia, as reported by the EUObserver portal, citing European diplomatic sources. One source noted that while the drafting process has started, it is still in the very early stages. Another EU

diplomat mentioned that both the EU's foreign service and the European Commission are actively involved in the effort, with proposals expected to be presented by early summer.

EUObserver also pointed out that the EU may face difficulties in securing approval for the new sanctions, particularly due to the possibility of a veto from Hungary. Budapest could also obstruct the extension of the EU's current economic sanctions against Russia, which were prolonged for another six months at the end of January.

Russia, China says US Military Actions responsible for escalation on Korean Peninsula — MFA

[TASS](#), 28 March 2025

Moscow and Beijing view the military actions of Washington and its allies as the primary driver of increasing tensions on the Korean Peninsula, according to a statement from the Russian Foreign Ministry following talks between Deputy Foreign Minister Andrey Rudenko and Chinese Government Special Representative for Korean Peninsula Affairs Liu Xiaoming.

“The two sides highlighted the alignment of their views on the causes of the escalation on the Korean Peninsula, particularly the ongoing military activities of the United States and its allies, including drills simulating large-scale war scenarios against North Korea that involve nuclear weapons. Both parties emphasised that such provocative actions pose a threat to peace and stability in Northeast Asia,” the ministry stated.

Russia Willing to Collaborate with the US on Arctic Security, Says Embassy

[TASS](#), 29 March 2025

Russia is open to collaborating with the United States to maintain stability in the Arctic region, Russia's embassy in Denmark told *Izvestiya*.

“Russia believes that Arctic security should be ensured through joint efforts of the regional countries, based on dialogue and cooperation. Russia is ready to work with the US on a mutually beneficial basis to ensure stability and sustainable development in the Arctic,” the embassy stated, in response to reports of an American delegation's visit to Greenland.

Earlier this week, Russian President Vladimir Putin expressed his belief that the United States would continue to pursue its military, political, and economic interests in the Arctic. He also commented on Washington's ambitions regarding Greenland, stating that it was a matter for Denmark and the US to decide, and that it "has no relation" to Russia.

Shanghai to Host Russian-Chinese Conference on Global and Eurasian Issues

[TASS](#), 31 March 2025

More than 60 experts from Russia and China will participate in a two-day conference organized by the Valdai International Discussion Club and the Center for Russian Studies at East China Normal University. The event, titled "Space of Joint Development: Global and Eurasian Dimensions," will begin in Shanghai on March 31.

The conference will consist of four key sessions: "Russia and China: Strategic Partnership in a Multipolar World", "Global and Regional Challenges for Eurasia", "Promising Areas of Bilateral Cooperation: Large-Scale Projects in Eurasia, Artificial Intelligence, and New Payment Mechanisms" and "The Future of International Institutions and International Law."

In a plenary meeting of the Valdai Club in Sochi last November, Russian President Vladimir Putin emphasized that Russia and China have achieved an unprecedented level of mutual trust, cooperation, and friendship.

Russia Opposes Peacekeepers from Countries Supporting Kiev in Ukraine – Envoy

[TASS](#), 31 March 2025

Russia firmly rejects the idea of sending peacekeepers to Ukraine from countries that have been providing arms to Kiev, stated Kirill Logvinov, Director of the Russian Foreign Ministry's Department of International Organizations, in an interview with TASS.

He pointed out that European nations are ignoring Russia's strong opposition to the deployment of peacekeepers from countries that continue to arm Ukraine. "They are completely disregarding our warnings that we categorically oppose the presence of troops from those nations on Ukrainian soil," Logvinov said.

Logvinov stressed that the West's refusal to acknowledge Russia's stance contributed to the conflict in Ukraine.

On March 27, a summit in Paris brought together representatives from around 30 countries to discuss potential post-conflict security guarantees for Ukraine. While the United States did not attend, several nations expressed willingness to contribute to a peacekeeping mission in Ukraine, provided they had support from Washington.

On March 12, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov warned that any deployment of NATO troops, under any flag or role, on Ukrainian soil would pose a direct threat to Russia, and Russia would not tolerate NATO peacekeepers in Ukraine under any circumstances.

Russia and the U.S. Initiate Discussions on Rare Earth Metals, Says Putin's Envoy

[The Moscow Times](#), 31 March 2025; [RT](#), 31 March 2025

Russian and U.S. officials have begun talks on developing rare earth metal reserves in Russia, according to President Vladimir Putin's special envoy for international economic and investment cooperation, Kirill Dmitriev.

“Rare earth metals represent an important area for cooperation, and we have initiated discussions on various rare earth metals and projects in Russia,” Dmitriev told the pro-Kremlin newspaper *Izvestia*.

Dmitriev, who also leads Russia's Direct Investment Fund, mentioned that several companies had shown interest in potential joint projects but did not provide further specifics. Last month, Putin stated that Moscow was open to collaborating with Washington on developing rare earth metal reserves, including those in regions Russia claims to have annexed since the start of its full-scale invasion of Ukraine.

About the Author

Anusua Ganguly is a Research Assistant at the Centre for Land Warfare Studies, where her study focuses on Russia and Central Asia. With a Master's degree in Conflict Analysis and Peace Building, Anusua also has a keen interest in non-traditional security threats, the role of media in conflict and the role of gender in conflict and peacebuilding efforts. Their research explores the complexities of global security dynamics and emphasises the importance of inclusive approaches in fostering lasting peace.



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