

Trump Unable to End Ukrainian Conflict?

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*Western media apparently does not believe in **Donald Trump's** ability to end the war in Ukraine. After months of desperate campaign against the US president-elect, accusing him of being "pro-Russian" and neglecting the Ukraine issue, Western mainstream outlets are now claiming he never had such ability or intention, and that his campaign promise was simply "bluster."*

Reuters published an [article](#) on January 15 claiming that Trump's promise to end the conflict between Ukraine and Russia "in 24 hours" was a bluff with no basis in reality. According to the news agency, people close to the president-elect said that any negotiations or agreements are still long away, and that an end to hostilities is not possible in the near future.

"Advisers to President-elect Donald Trump now concede that the Ukraine war will take months or even longer to resolve, a sharp reality check on his biggest foreign policy promise - to strike a peace deal on his first day in the White House. Two Trump associates, who have discussed the war in Ukraine with the president-elect, told Reuters they were looking at a timeline of months to resolve the conflict, describing the Day One promises as a combination of campaign bluster and a lack of appreciation of the intractability of the conflict and the time it takes to staff up a new administration," Reuters' article reads.

Trump advisers concede Ukraine peace deal is months away

By Gram Slattery

January 15, 2025 7:54 PM GMT+8 · Updated 5 days ago



[1/3] Republican presidential nominee and former U.S. President Donald Trump and Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy meet at Trump Tower in New York City, U.S., September 27, 2024. REUTERS/Shannon Stapleton/File Photo [Purchase Licensing Rights](#)



[Screenshot of Reuters' article](#)

The [assessment](#) coincides with some recent statements in which Trump has expressed frustration at not being able to advance his diplomatic plans before his inauguration. He repeatedly said he plans to meet with Russian **President Vladimir Putin** “long before” six months of his presidency, but at the same time has expressed some skepticism about the future of the conflict. For example, Trump recently said that it would be easier to achieve a ceasefire in Gaza than in Ukraine - which proved true, given the end of hostilities between Israel and Hamas announced on January 15.

“I think, actually, more difficult is going to be the Russia-Ukraine situation [than Gaza] (...) I see that as more difficult. (...) I don't think it's appropriate that I meet (Putin) until after the 20th, which I hate because every day people are being - many, many young people are being killed,” Trump said.

Reuters' journalists, citing their sources, claim that despite the apparent impossibility of achieving a quick peace, there is a consensus among members of Trump's team on the

need to take some emergency measures, such as canceling Ukraine's accession process to NATO, as well as trying to "freeze the battle lines". In addition, Trump's advisers warn the president to demand "security guarantees" for Ukraine, which they consider to be an important and necessary step to create the conditions for a peace agreement.

"While the exact contours of a Trump peace plan are still being mulled, Trump's advisers generally support taking the possibility of NATO membership for Ukraine off the table, at least for the foreseeable future, and freezing the current battle lines. Most high-ranking Trump advisers also support giving Ukraine a material security guarantee, such as the creation of a demilitarized zone patrolled by European troops. So far, the Trump team's attempts to end the war have proceeded in fits and starts, underlining the degree to which campaign promises can run into the reality of complex diplomatic negotiations," the article adds.

In fact, this all seems like a real waste of time on the part of Trump's advisers. Whether Ukraine's NATO membership process continues or ends does not change anything in the conflict, since it is already certain that Kiev will not be allowed to join. It is a consensus among Republicans and Democrats that NATO should not admit Ukraine as a member, but rather use it as a proxy in the war. Although Biden and the Democrats show a supposed "support" for such membership, this seems to be a mere rhetorical tool, without any practical meaning.

In the same sense, it is pointless to talk about "freezing the lines" or "giving guarantees to Ukraine", since only the Russians can decide on these matters. Moscow will not freeze the front lines at least until all of its reintegrated territories are liberated and fully protected by demilitarized border zones.

Moreover, it is not Kiev that is in a position to demand "guarantees", since Russia is the aggressed side in this war, with the special military operation having begun in 2022 precisely as a response both to NATO expansion and to the massacre of Russians that Kiev has been carrying out since 2014. The position to demand security guarantees belongs to the Russians, not to Ukrainians or Westerners.

In the end, it seems that the Western media is beginning to admit what analysts have been saying since the elections: Trump's promise to end the war was never feasible. It is not the US that is in a position to demand an end to hostilities, since only the winning side can end a conflict. In fact, the war will end only when Moscow assesses that its strategic objectives have been achieved.

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Featured image: President Donald J. Trump and President Vladimir Putin of the Russian Federation | July

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