

Press Release

Brussels, October 1st, 2025

This morning, Members of the European Parliament (EP) held a meeting with Members of the State Duma via video conference call (VCC). The European Parliamentarians came from a number of different countries and political backgrounds.

The discussion was led by Mr. Leonid Slutsky, Chairman of the State Duma Committee on International Affairs, and by Mr. Fernand Kartheiser, Member of the European Parliament from Luxembourg. The decision to hold such a conference had been agreed upon by Mr. Slutsky and Mr. Kartheiser during a meeting in Moscow in May 2025.

While today's meeting could have no formalised institutional character, it was a clear sign that Members of the EP want to re-establish a dialogue with Russia despite the difficult circumstances. In that sense it was, as Mr. Mr. Slutsky stated, a partial resumption of the dialogue interrupted in 2014: "This is the first meeting between the European Parliament and the State Duma deputies after an 11-year hiatus. I would like to express my sincere gratitude and respect for the courage and open dialogue.". Mr. Kartheiser stated "This is a symbolic meeting for us. We must not deviate away from dialogue. On the contrary, we should discuss together the issues of Ukrainian settlement, the ways to establish lasting peace, to restore cooperation and to counter the arms race."

European MEPs raised a number of issues during the conference regarding the conflict in Ukraine, the prospects for economic and scientific cooperation, sanctions and trade issues, the media and communications climate, and the links between civil society in the EU and Russia.

Both sides emphasised the need for an ongoing, open, equal, and mutually respectful dialogue. It was agreed to pursue this dialogue on a regular basis, to further substantiate their work with the exchange of written questions and answers and to explore possibilities for in-person meetings in the future.

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