

## **Putin opposes only peace plan likely to work**

### **Ukraine**

Posted by:

Posted on : 2017/11/12 23:44:11

### **Russian president Vladimir Putin attends the Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation meeting in Danang, Vietnam.**

By [Daniel McLaughlin](#) in Belgrade for the Irish Times, Nov 11, 2017 Russian president [Vladimir Putin](#) has sought to dampen growing expectations over the possible deployment of international peacekeepers to eastern [Ukraine](#), as Kremlin and US envoys prepare for talks on Monday on the region's conflict. "I have not heard anything about this, I do not know anything about this, so it is impossible to comment," Mr Putin said of a report in the Wall Street Journal that outlined US plans to propose a 20,000-strong peacekeeping force for an area where more than 10,000 people have been killed in fighting since spring 2014. "A proposal is one thing, but when a proposal is put down on paper it often looks very different," Mr Putin said on Saturday at the end of the Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation summit in [Vietnam](#). "But if there will be such proposals, let's see," he added. The chief Russian envoy for the Ukrainian conflict, [Vladislav Surkov](#), and his US counterpart [Kurt Volker](#) are due to meet in the Serbian capital, [Belgrade](#), on Monday for their third round of talks in recent months. Having rejected Kyiv's earlier calls for a peacekeeping mission, Mr Putin said in September that such a force could be deployed to protect international monitors in eastern Ukraine along the so-called "line of contact" between government troops and separatist fighters who are armed and ultimately controlled by Moscow. [Kyiv](#) and Mr Volker criticised that proposal as too limited. They want the peacekeepers' mandate to cover all separatist-held areas, including stretches of the Ukraine-[Russia](#) border through which the militants receive supplies from Moscow. **Economic sanctions** Mr Volker said this month that if Russia decided to "dig in" and prolong a low-level conflict in Ukraine, it would face continued US economic sanctions and the rising cost of propping up separatist-held areas of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions. "Alternatively, if they want to get out, there are ways to do that. And that's what exploring a peacekeeping force and a peacekeeping option can entail, and we would be happy to help," he said during a state department briefing. Mr Volker also flatly rejected the Kremlin narrative of "civil war" in Ukraine and Mr Putin's calls for the government in Kyiv to negotiate with local warlords. [hellip;] <https://www.irishtimes.com/news/world/...cekeeping-plans-1.3289114> Photo courtesy article source