

Germany's Merkel to press Ukraine peace talks after Russian election **World**

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Chancellor Angela Merkel wants a renewed push for peace in Ukraine as conflicting sides fail to live up to the Minsk agreements. The optimistic tone comes as the EU renewed sanctions on Russia over Ukraine. Russian President Vladimir Putin and German Chancellor Angela Merkel (picture-alliance/AP Photo/M. Schreiber)

From Deutsche Welle, Mar 12, 2018: German Chancellor Angela Merkel said Monday that she hoped to relaunch peace talks over Ukraine following Sunday's Russian election, which Vladimir Putin is expected to win. "I am confident that after the election in Russia next Sunday we can have a fresh impetus and we can see how we can achieve qualitative progress in the Minsk process," Merkel told reporters Monday. The 2015 Minsk peace accords – brokered between the leaders of Ukraine, Russia, France and Germany – have failed to end fighting in eastern Ukraine that has killed 10,000 people and displaced hundreds of thousands more. Merkel also said she supported the deployment of a UN peacekeeping force to eastern Ukraine. [⋮]

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