

## **Trump, Putin to meet in Helsinki on July 16**

### **World**

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**Analyst: "It's worth keeping in mind that Trump's entire foreign policy team consists of neo-conservatives who are very hawkish on Putin and Russia, especially John Bolton." Photo: Putin with John Bolton at Kremlin meeting, June 27, 2018\***

KYIV, July 2, 2018 - U.S. President Trump will meet with Russian President Putin on July 16 in Helsinki, both the White House and Kremlin confirmed last week, Concorde Capital reiterated to clients today as part of their analysis of current events. Meeting alone by themselves, they will discuss their bilateral relations and "a range of national security issues," the White House said in a statement. When asked by reporters on June 30 whether the U.S. can accept Russia's claim on the illegally annexed Crimean Peninsula, Trump responded, "We're going to have to see." He said he will talk to Putin "about everything," reported Bloomberg News. "We're going to be talking about Ukraine, we're going to be talking about Syria, we'll be talking about elections, and we don't want anybody tampering with elections," Trump said. Another key topic for discussion will be the future of Syria and a proposal for Russia to help remove Iran from the battlefield, U.S. National Security Adviser John Bolton told national television on July 1. "I don't think (Bashar el) Assad is the strategic issue. I think Iran is the strategic issue... There are possibilities for doing a larger negotiation on helping to get Iranian forces out of Syria and back into Iran, which would be significant step forward." Concorde analyst Zenon Zawada added: "The latest wave of media-generated fears is sweeping the Western world regarding this meeting. Yet it's worth keeping in mind that Trump's entire foreign policy team consists of neo-conservatives who are very hawkish on Putin and Russia, especially John Bolton. So is the entire U.S. foreign policy establishment that Trump has to rely on. "Trump will not be allowed by his foreign policy team to go so far as to recognize Crimea as part of Russia. Yet with this meeting, Trump could reach a deal that will reduce Crimea as a priority in the years to come, with sanctions starting to be relaxed in four years. Trump could also offer Putin personal guarantees that a UN peacekeeping mission in Donbas won't be used to somehow retake the territory for Ukraine, and that the Ukrainian side will fulfill the Minsk Accords entirely (though it has been Russia that is most responsible for violating them). Since Trump is a businessman by nature, a compromise on Ukraine could be reached as part of a deal involving Syria. We believe the U.S. establishment (also known as the Deep State) will tolerate Trump's wheeling-and-dealing so long as he doesn't violate the essential laws and principles of the post-World War Two order.

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Photo courtesy Kremlin Press Service