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## **PUTIN SUGGESTS RUSSIA OPEN TO DIRECT TALKS WITH UKRAINE**

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BBC News (22 April 2025)

Yang Tian & Frances Mao

Russian President Vladimir Putin has signalled he is open to bilateral talks with Ukrainian leader Volodymyr Zelensky for the first time since the early stages of the war.

Speaking to Russian state TV on Monday, Putin said Russia has "always looked positively on any peace initiatives. We hope that representatives of the Kyiv regime will feel the same way".

Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov said Putin's comments indicated a willingness to engage in direct talks with Ukraine about not striking civilian targets.

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