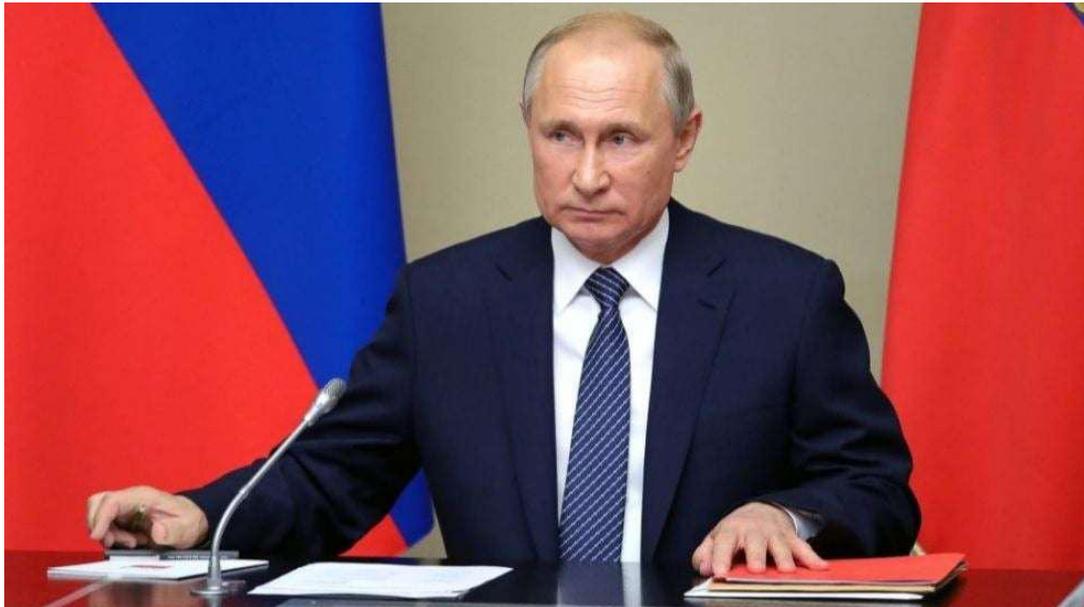


THE HILL *Putin not ready to recognize Biden win*

Aris Folley - The Hill

Russian President Vladimir Putin said he won't recognize President-elect Joe Biden's projected victory in the U.S. election until the results are confirmed "in a legitimate, legal way" or until the former vice president's win is "recognized by the opposing party."



Getty Images Putin not ready to recognize Biden win

According to [Bloomberg](#), the Russian leader made the comment during remarks on state-owned television on Sunday.

"We will work with anyone who has the confidence of the American people," Putin stated.

"But that confidence can only be given to a candidate whose victory has been recognized by the opposing party, or after the results are confirmed in a legitimate, legal way."

Putin also reportedly claimed that the delay, which he called "a formality," wouldn't hurt relations between Washington and Moscow because "there's nothing to damage.

"They're already ruined," he said, according to the network.

A Kremlin spokesperson previously said Putin [wouldn't recognize](#) Biden's win until legal challenges mounted by President Trump's campaign immediately after Election Day were resolved in court.

Putin's latest comments arrived shortly before [it was confirmed](#) on Sunday that the Trump administration had withdrawn from the Open Skies Treaty between the two nations.

Reports of Trump's plans to withdraw from the treaty first emerged in spring. The Trump administration withdrew from another arms treaty with Russia, the Intermediate-range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty, signed in 1987, in August.

The comments are some of the most detailed since the election from Putin, one of a dwindling number of leaders who haven't recognized Biden as the next U.S. head of state. Russia, accused by U.S. intelligence agencies of intervening in 2016 to help get Trump elected, has been wary of Biden, fearing an increase in sanctions pressure and clashes over human rights.

Putin described the Kremlin's decision not to congratulate Biden as "a formality" with no ulterior motives. When asked if the move could damage U.S.-Russia relations, he said: "there's nothing to damage, they're already ruined."

Natasha Doff (Bloomberg) also contributed in this article