
PASHINYAN TALKS RUSSIAN IMPORT BANS, POSSIBLE EU REFERENDUM IN FIRST CALL WITH PUTIN SINCE ELECTIONS

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Nate Ostiller

Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan has spoken to Russian President Vladimir Putin, marking the first time the two leaders have talked, albeit on the phone, since the Armenian parliamentary elections in June that saw Pashinyans Civil Contract party notch another term in power. Ahead of the election, Russia stopped short of openly supporting the opposition but made it clear the Kremlin desired Pashinyans defeat, and has not publicly congratulated him on his victory in the almost two intervening months.

The official Russian readout of the call, held on Monday, said it had been initiated by Armenia.

The remaining details from the Russian side were brief, simply stating Putin had reiterated Armenia should hold a referendum on attempting to join the EU or maintaining membership in the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU).

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