



# Putin's visit to Hungary: How do the people react?



**Russia - a country currently giving rise to most controversial debates: sanctions or diplomatic solution - what will lead to the goal in the conflict about the Ukraine crisis? While America, in coalition with the EU, continues threatening Russia with further sanctions, other states seek the way of diplomacy, for example Hungary. The Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán received Russia's president Putin on February 17th 2015 in Budapest.**

Ladies and gentlemen, good evening! Russia - a country currently giving rise to most controversial debates: sanctions or diplomatic solution - what will lead to the goal in the conflict about the Ukraine crisis? While America, in coalition with the EU, continues threatening Russia with further sanctions, other states seek the way of diplomacy, for example Hungary. The Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán received Russia's president Putin on February 17th 2015 in Budapest. Negotiations took place about a new gas contract and the bilateral economic relations. For years, Orbán has been heading towards a policy of an "opening-up towards the East". Hungary being a small country, surrounded by the West at one side and by Russia at the other side, Orbán obviously considers balanced relations to both parties as important. Many Hungarians share this viewpoint. So on February 17th two sympathy marches took place in Budapest. It seems that the demonstrators had more in mind than just the aim of balanced politics. In a statement on the website of the organizers of the demonstrations it is said - I quote: "We express our sympathy, our agreement and our support towards Putin and the Russian government because of their active endeavor to preserve the international political and military balance. We express as well our acknowledgment in view of their efforts to solve the crises in Syria and in Ukraine, in view of the rescue of the Russian-speaking people living in Ukraine as well as the preservation of their national sovereignty. Without provoking any nation or person, we would like by our demonstration to unambiguously point to the aggressive politics of the USA and the EU. They pushed Ukraine into civil war and have been continuously exerting economical, political and even military pressure on other nations." The motto of the demonstration was: "We don't want war - and certainly no world war." Ladies and gentlemen, the spirit of the German peace movement seems to have made its entrance also in Hungary, for more and more people recognize the USA and the NATO as the real warmongers and estimate that it makes sense to draw closer to Russia. Many do not see the possible war against Russia as the solution of the current situation. They clearly take a stand against a war and for the dialogue with Russia. Kla.TV on site in Budapest. Hear yourselves, ladies and gentlemen, what people in the streets were saying to this topic.

from Z.P. / E.F.

## Sources:

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