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IN FROM THE COLD: Brussels panic as Trump and Putin begin 'new era' of US-Russia relations

VLADIMIR Putin was tonight brought in from the international wilderness as new US President Donald Trump vowed to oversee a new era of "constructive cooperation" between the two rival superpowers.

By [PATRICK CHRISTYS](#)

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In a phone call which will send shockwaves through Brussels the Republican supremo promised to work more closely with the Kremlin chief on global affairs, marking a significant thawing in the relationship between the US and Russia.

European Union leaders have spent the week blindly lashing out against the new President-elect in a desperate attempt to appear relevant to his new administration. But tonight's call between the two world leaders, which was apparently warm and conciliatory, will only heighten their fears that Brussels is set to be sidelined by the new US government.

During an historic conversation the Kremlin chief offered his congratulations to Mr Trump on his shock victory over Hillary Clinton and expressed his hope that relations between the pair would be significantly better than those he had with Barack Obama.

Mr Putin told the 70-year-old President-elect that he respects him and hopes to enter into a successful political partnership in the future so they can work together to defeat extremism and terror.



Donald Trump has received a call from Vladimir Putin who wants 'partnership'



The Kremlin is looking to bolster relations with America

It is understood Mr Putin said the thawing in relations between the two global superpowers was contingent on neither meddling in each other's internal affairs.

Mr Trump agreed to continue dialogue with Mr Putin over the phone with a view to meeting in person in the near future and praised the "constructive cooperation".

A close relationship between Russia and America could spell trouble for the European Union.

Many Brussels big wigs have been outspoken in their criticism of Mr Trump, with Jean Claude Juncker saying the property mogul's election "threatens global security".

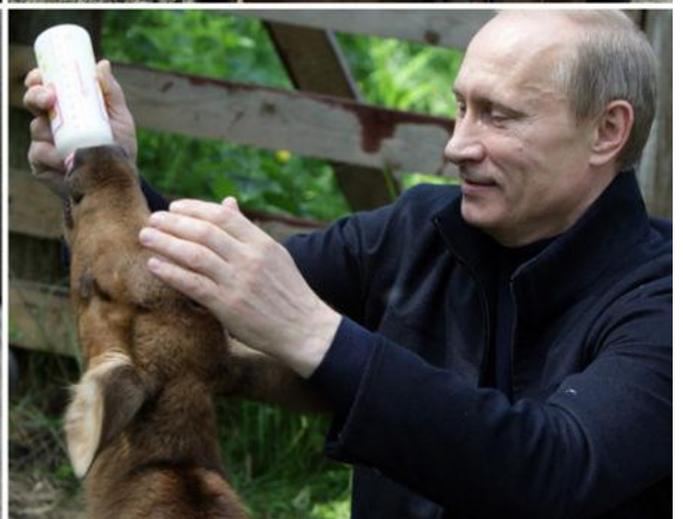
If Mr Trump was to officially recognise Russia's annexation of Crimea it would sour US-EU relations still further.

Both Putin and Trump seem allied in their mutual hatred of Islamic State and their vow to work together to tackle terrorism could be an indication of an allied Russian and American force taking on ISIS in Syria.

Thu, November 24, 2016



PLAY SLIDESHOW





Vladimir Putin has opened the door to good relations with Donald Trump

The Kremlin released a statement saying: "The importance of creating a solid basis for bilateral ties was underscored, in particularly by developing the trade-economic component."

It added that the countries should "return to pragmatic, mutually beneficial cooperation, which would address the interests of both countries as well as stability and safety the world over".

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