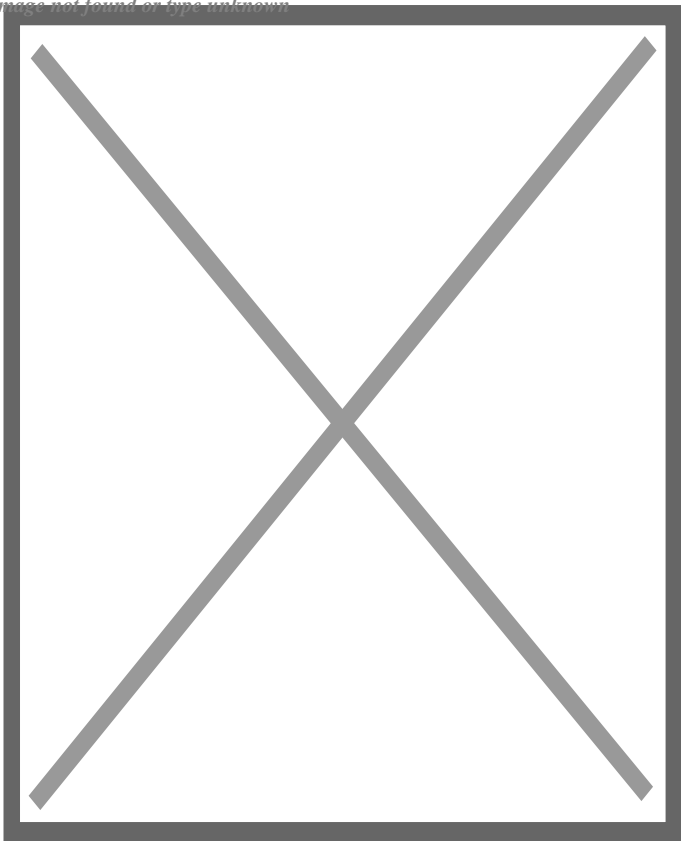


Lula says world is getting tired of Ukraine conflict

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Brasilia, July 20 (RHC)-- Countries around the world are beginning to grow weary of the ongoing military conflict between Moscow and Kiev, Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva told reporters this week. "The world is starting to get tired. Countries are starting to get tired," he said following a two-day meeting of EU and Latin American leaders in Brussels, as quoted by Bloomberg.

The Brazilian president predicted that there will eventually come a moment when there will be peace in Ukraine, and insisted that a group of countries will have to be able to talk to both Moscow and Kiev.

Lula, who has been pushing for a peace deal between Russia and Ukraine, also objected to efforts to single out Moscow as the sole culprit behind the conflict. He insisted that Ukrainian President Vladimir Zelensky, as well as U.S. leader Joe Biden, were equally to blame for failing to negotiate with Russian leader Vladimir Putin to prevent the conflict.

During this week's summit between the EU and the Community of South American and Caribbean States (CELAC), some European officials had hoped to sign a final statement which would feature an explicit condemnation of Russia's actions in Ukraine. However, EU leaders failed to persuade all of their Latin American counterparts, as a number of states, including Brazil and Nicaragua, objected to the inclusion of any strong language on Russia in the document.

The final declaration, which included promises of investment and several deals, ended up being signed by all members of the summit except Nicaragua, which objected to the inclusion of even a single paragraph referring to the Ukraine conflict.

Despite NATO's commitment to stand with Ukraine "for as long as it takes," a number of Western officials have recently started to predict that support for Kiev could soon begin to wane as "war fatigue" sets in over the prolonged conflict.

Last week, Czech President Petr Pavel stated that Ukraine should aim to regain as much territory as possible before the 2024 U.S. presidential elections, which could see Kiev's backers in Washington reconsider the volume of military aid sent to Ukraine.

In March, Slovakian President Zuzana Caputova also warned that military aid for Kiev was not unlimited and claimed that public support for Ukraine was "running out."

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