

# *Russian President Hits Back at Health Rumors*

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ST. PETERSBURG, March 16 (RHC) -- Russian President Vladimir Putin on Monday dismissed rumors of his poor health at a meeting with Kyrgyz President Almazbek Atambayev in St. Petersburg, saying "life would be boring without gossip."

After the unexplained postponement of three-way talks between Russia, Kazakhstan and Belarus on Friday, speculations over Putin's health went wild in western media over the weekend.

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