

## North and South Korea Relations at the Vladivostok East Asia Economic (EEF) Forum

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There are no official reports of a meeting between the North and South Korea delegations and no firm evidence as to whether a meeting took place.

The head of the DPRK delegation to the EEF Forum Minister of External Economic Relations Kim Yong-jae, said that North Korea "will introduce strong countermeasures against the United States' attempts to exert pressure through strong sanctions."

China's President Xi Jinping had a telephone conversation with Donald Trump on September 6, urging the need for a peaceful solution through talks. (See Shanghai Daily, September 7, 2017)

At the meeting between ROK President Moon and Russia's President Putin, the Russian head of State expressed his opposition to sanctions and an oil embargo, which had been put forth by Moon.

Putin nonetheless pointed to a framework of economic cooperation with both North and South Korea: "the two leaders devoted considerable time to bilateral economic relations and joint projects, noting that North Korea could be involved in the transit of energy resources from Russia to South Korea." (Russia Rossiya 1 TV "Vesti" news 1700 gmt 6 Sep 17)

Putin may have had a meeting with the head of the DPRK delegation. But there was official confirmation.

Michel Chossudovsky contributed to this report

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