

## **Report: Sen. Rand Paul files amendment to remove Russia sanctions**

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Sen. Rand Paul reportedly plans to file an amendment on Wednesday to change several executive orders that would lift U.S. sanctions on Russian lawmakers and allow them to travel to America.

The amendment is supposed to be presented to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on Wednesday, according to the Daily Beast.

The amendment states that if Moscow is willing to lift sanctions against the United States, then the United States will, in turn, remove sanctions against members of the Russian Federal Assembly.

A copy of the amendment was obtained by the Daily Beast.

Sergio Gor, a Rand Paul spokesperson, told the Courier Journal, "Senator Rand Paul believes that dialogue and diplomacy are vitally important to global peace. It is important to remember that the United States and Russia hold more than 90 percent of all nuclear weapons. While there is plenty we might disagree on, we won't be able to resolve those difference if the two sides aren't engaging in dialogue."

In August, Paul traveled to Russia and met with lawmakers to discuss diplomatic efforts between the two countries. The libertarian think tank, the Cato Institute, financed the trip.

During his visit, he with several Russian officials, including Konstantin Kosachev, chairman of the Russian equivalent of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, who agreed to send members from the Russian Federation to Washington. They also discussed non-proliferation of certain missiles and sanctions, according to Russian state media.

Paul also met with Leonid Slutsky, head of the Foreign Affairs Committee in Russia's lower house of parliament.

Russian state media reported that Slutsky asked Paul to help resolve the arrest of Russian national Maria Butina, a suspected covert agent who met with Donald Trump Jr. and attended an

event where Kentucky Gov. Matt Bevin was present during the 2016 National Rifle Association convention in Louisville.

Paul has stood out as an advocate for Trump's dialogue with President Vladimir Putin, even as Republicans and Democrats criticize the president for failing to confront Russia about its meddling in the 2016 election.