# Milorad Dodik's Controversial Plans for Republika Srpska and Putin's Visit to North Korea



### Milorad Dodik's Controversial Plans for Republika Srpska

**Location:** St. Petersburg, Russia
**Date:** June 19, 2024
**Key Figures:** Milorad Dodik, Vladimir Putin, Aleksandar Vučić

Milorad Dodik, the President of Republika Srpska, a semi-autonomous region in Bosnia and Herzegovina, sparked controversy by announcing his intention to secede from Bosnia and Herzegovina and align more closely with Serbia under Russian influence. The declaration was made during an economic forum in St. Petersburg, where Dodik met with Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Dodik has formed a working group to draft a separation agreement, suggesting a potential geopolitical shift towards Russia and possibly joining the BRICS bloc. This move raises concerns about regional stability and adherence to the Dayton Peace Agreement, which has maintained peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina since the mid-1990s.

### Putin's Visit to North Korea

**Location:** Pyongyang, North Korea
**Date:** June 19, 2024
**Key Figures:** Vladimir Putin, Kim Jong-un

Russian President Vladimir Putin visited North Korea for the first time in nearly 25 years, where he was met with a grand ceremonial welcome. During the visit, Putin gifted North Korean leader Kim Jong-un a luxury Aurus limousine, a tea set, and an admiral’s dirk. The meeting marked the signing of a new mutual aid agreement that promises assistance if either country is attacked.

This visit occurs as both countries face growing international isolation. The meeting concluded with discussions on mutual support and technological exchanges, although the details of their agreements remain undisclosed. The exchange of luxury gifts violated UN sanctions against North Korea, which prohibit the supply of luxury goods to the nation.