

Russian Lawmakers to Trade Foreign Cars for Domestic Brands, State Duma Speaker Says

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The speaker of Russia's lower house of parliament said that lawmakers will ditch their foreign-made cars for domestic car brands, Interfax [reported](#) Friday.

"We discussed with the heads of the State Duma factions the issue of the use of domestically assembled cars by deputies. Everyone supports this decision. We agreed that the deputies will use Moskvitch, Lada, Aurus cars," State Duma Speaker Vyacheslav Volodin was quoted as saying by Interfax.

He added that lawmakers will in September begin transitioning to driving on domestic-made vehicles such as the Moskvitch, Lada and Volga.

Russia's car manufacturing industry has been one of the hardest-hit sectors by sanctions and the mass exodus of foreign companies from the country.

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Amid the departure of foreign automakers — including Renault, Toyota and Volkswagen — from the country, Moscow has sought to bolster domestic car manufacturing.

Volodin said production would soon start for a new model of the Volga, a car popular among the Soviet *nomenklatura* in the U.S.S.R.

The State Duma speaker's announcement comes just a day after President Vladimir Putin [demanded](#) that officials stop purchasing foreign-made cars and called on officials to use domestic-made vehicles for their transportation needs.

“[Government] ministries, departments and agencies have asked to continue purchasing... foreign-made cars. It's out of the question,” he said, noting that officials may have to get used to vehicles that are “more modest.”

Government purchases of foreign cars in Russia more than [doubled](#) in the first six months of 2023, the state-run TASS news agency reported Friday.

In 2018, Putin [swapped](#) his usual Mercedes with the Russian-made Aurus limousine for the presidential state vehicle.

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