



Newsletter of the

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Donetsk People's Republic

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Main news of the Republic (from August 03 to August 10)

Natalia Nikonorova commented the latest statements of Ukrainian representatives in the Contact group

Over the past week, Kiev's representatives in the Contact group made a lot of comments, each of them included the words "compromise" and "red line". But the way they interpret these "compromises" and "red lines" has nothing to do with the documents signed in Minsk.

First of all, all the participants of the Ukrainian delegation - both new and old - should carefully read the documents with which they are going to work. All the necessary compromise steps are already outlined in the Package of Measures. Kravchuk again and again suggests to search new compromises, implying a revision of previously reached agreements. Instead of working to consolidate Donbass special status, we are offered a kind of "special management regime" and remember the old decrees on the "free economic zone to attract investment."

In this regard, Leonid Kravchuk's words that he allegedly do not understand how the Steinmeier's formula can be implemented into Ukrainian legislation are also alarming. As the delegation head, he cannot fail to know that the Contact Group has already agreed on how it should be adopted. We have repeatedly stated that this formula in itself is a compromise for the peaceful coexistence of Ukraine and Donbass, because due to the irresponsibility of Ukraine, all the deadlines for the entry into force of the law on a permanent basis were missed. We hope that Mr. Kravchuk will not begin his activities with an attempt to nullify the agreements reached with such difficulty in the Contact Group under his predecessor.

The implementation of the Package of Measures is the only way to return to the peaceful coexistence of Ukraine and Donbass. And in this regard, the greatest concern is caused by Kravchuk's refusal to discuss amendments to the Constitution of Ukraine, since it is allegedly impossible to introduce "temporary issues" into the main law. We can only advise him to re-read the document approved by the UN Security Council resolution and Steinmeier's formula in order to understand what the point is. Namely, it is about our own red line - the permanent nature of the legislation on Donbass special status, without which all other agreements cannot have a stable effect. Work in this direction will most clearly demonstrate Kiev's willingness to compromise.

We call on Kiev to fulfill in good faith its obligations under the agreements reached at the Minsk site - Natalia Nikonorova

Despite the fact that in Minsk all the members of the Contact group agreed and signed additional measures to control the current ceasefire, which are essential for resolving the Donbass conflict, the Ukrainian party does not fulfill them in the way that is enshrined.

These measures, which took 5 months and a huge effort to be agreed upon, mostly by Republics and the negotiation mediator represented by the Russian Federation, are being carried out by Kiev selectively. It is confirmed by the fact that Ukraine's representatives, either deliberately or because of incompetence, published an incomplete and distorted list of agreed measures on the website of the Ministry of Defense. Moreover, Kiev's careless approach to the agreement on creation of a coordination mechanism to respond to violations of the ceasefire regime with assistance of the JCCC in its current composition is puzzling. Representatives of Ukraine, for reasons we do not understand, periodically do not respond to calls and written messages in the framework of establishing direct communication between the parties, although this is essentially an elementary condition that is absolutely necessary for building and further functioning of this coordination mechanism.

We call on the Ukrainian authorities and, in particular, the new representatives of Ukraine in Minsk to abandon provocations and sabotage and to devote more time not to statements in the media, but to substantive, conscientious and coordinated work with Republics' representatives to fulfill all obligations within the framework of the Minsk process.

DPR Foreign Minister commented statements of Andrey Ermak about the exchange of detainees

Recently, we have heard from the Ukrainian authorities many different statements about the Minsk process, but all of them are united by a significant discrepancy with the true state of affairs at the Minsk negotiating platform.

Thus, the head of the Ukrainian president's office is talking about an early exchange of detainees. However, Mr. Ermak completely loses sight of the fact that at the moment even those exchanges that took place in December and April last year cannot be called completed. Kiev has not fulfilled the most important condition - full procedural clearing of the released persons. So, these persons are still criminally prosecuted by Ukraine and their rights and freedoms have not been fully restored.

In addition, we know how unfairly the Ukrainian party approach the process of agreeing the lists and how many deliberate provocations Kiev carry out during the negotiations. For example, we are faced with a situation where Ukrainian representatives include to the lists persons currently on the wanted list, although they cannot be exchanged in any way. At the same time, the inclusion in the lists of those citizens who really should be there is very selective: Ukrainian negotiators invent certain categories of persons who are allegedly denied exchange, although a simple and understandable

formula is clearly spelled out in the Package of measures - the exchange should be carried out according to the formula "all for all".

We urge the leadership of Ukraine to focus not on ostentatious readiness to carry out an exchange, but on real work in this direction, because only through a substantive dialogue with us in accordance with the letter of the Minsk agreements is it possible to actually bring progress on such an important humanitarian issue as the return of detained citizens home, taking into account full restoration of all their rights.