



Newsletter of the

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Donetsk People's Republic

19. 09. 2020

Main news of the Republic (from September 11 to September 18)

In the period from September 15 to 16, the next round of negotiations took place. The meetings of the Contact Group and the working groups to resolve the conflict in Donbass were held in the form of video conferences.

Ukraine refused to use **the coordination mechanism for responding to violations** agreed on July 22 as part of measures to strengthen the ceasefire. Thus, all additional measures were destroyed by the Ukrainian side.

We have always proceeded, and did not hide that interaction within the framework of the coordination mechanism should be carried out by all available means, including joint consideration of violations and joint inspections.

Today, Ukraine has disavowed this agreement, thereby destroying the entire package of additional measures, turning the agreed measures themselves into a purely declarative document, without any mechanism for monitoring the implementation.

We regret the position of the Ukrainian side, because of which the entire package of measures will have to be reconciled.

“Today's negotiations of the **group on political issues** were short - we did not hear the clear position of the Ukrainian party, and the OSCE coordinator Heidi Grau refused to send the written Republics' positions to the participants without explaining the reasons for her decision. It is obvious that all these facts entail significant damage to the negotiation process. It is especially regrettable that coordinator made such a decision at a time of crisis - after Ukraine's outright disruption of the joint inspection agreements reached at an extraordinary meeting on September 9.

In addition, it takes time to amend the resolution of the Verkhovna Rada on local elections. While the resolution is in effect, the Ukrainian representatives in the Contact Group, in fact, do not have the authority to discuss and agree on anything, since the Ukrainian parliament, by its decisions, crosses the Minsk agreements, which in fact expresses its non-recognition of its obligations under these documents.

We note with great concern a dangerous tendency in the process of political settlement. Recent events eloquently indicate that the process runs the risk of reaching a dead end due to the fault of the Ukrainian party ”- Natalia Nikonorova stated.

The DPR plenipotentiary stressed that without changing the decree on local elections, it is impossible to agree on either political, humanitarian or economic issues. And it is precisely the written recording of the positions of the parties that should become a key factor in successful negotiations.

Unfortunately, the Ukrainian party is unable to assimilate the basic principle: **the Minsk agreements are the one comprehensive document**, not a menu from which you can choose only what you want.

For example, the principle of “all for all”, which should underlie the exchange, is a principle contained in the Minsk agreements, so the meaning and terminology of the peace agreements cannot be crossed out.

Until now, 50 out of 51 people transferred by the Ukrainian side in the framework of previous exchanges have been deprived of their rights and freedoms, since until now official Kiev has not completed all the procedures necessary to restore these rights, according to which it has undertaken obligations.

It is impossible to implement one thing, another one not to implement, and the third one to cross out - for example, block social payments, but demand payment for water.

More than 2 months ago, we sent a draft roadmap for the restoration of socio-economic ties, but we do not observe any real actions from the Ukrainian side, except for the next populist public statements.

STATEMENT OF NATALIA NIKONOROVA REGARDING DESTRUCTIVE STATEMENTS OF KIEV'S REPRESENTATIVE

It didn't seem enough for Ukraine to disrupt the agreement on additional measures to control and strengthen the ceasefire. Its officials persistently continue to declare that they have no intention of consolidation Donbass special status in the constitution.

Such statements represent nothing more than a publicly announced refusal to implement the Minsk agreements, since paragraph 11 of the Package of Measures clearly prescribes the implementation of constitutional reform, which implies decentralization, taking into account Donbass special status. This is the main element of political settlement, which is an integral foundation for resolving the conflict and the most important condition for a stable and long-term peace in Donbass.

Also perplexing is the idea of one of Kiev's representatives in the Contact Group about the adoption by the Verkhovna Rada of a certain document confirming Ukraine's adherence to the Minsk agreements, instead of canceling paragraph 4 of the resolution on local elections, which runs counter to these agreements. This idea is the whole essence of Kiev's approach to fulfilling its obligations: the Ukrainian authorities are

absolutely not interested in fulfilling the agreements in practice, and only strive to create an illusion of their adherence to the Minsk agreements. The reason for this is clear and is not hidden even by the Ukrainian officials themselves - just to "give a positive signal to Western partners."

If the representatives of Ukraine present their refusal to consolidate the special status of Donbass in the constitution as their official position in the Contact Group, it will be regarded as a deliberate disruption by Ukraine of the diplomatic settlement based on the documents of the Minsk package. And then the Ukrainian parliament can accept at least a million papers in support of the Minsk agreements - this will not save Ukraine from the status of a state that has failed the UN-approved peace process.

DELEGATION OF THE DPR ARRIVED TO SOUTH OSSETIA WITH A WORKING VISIT

On September 18, a delegation of the Donetsk People's Republic arrived to the Republic of South Ossetia. The delegation membership included the Chairman of the DPR People's Council Vladimir Bidyovka, the head of the "Donetsk Republic" fraction Valery Skorokhodov and First Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Peresada.

According to the press service of the DPR People's Council during the visit the delegation will attend a solemn meeting of the public of the Republic of South Ossetia "The heart is registered in Ossetia", as well as celebrations of the Day of the Republic of South Ossetia.

Every year on September 20, South Ossetia celebrates a public holiday - Republic Day. On September 20, 1990, the Council of People's Deputies of the South Ossetian Autonomous Region adopted a declaration on the state sovereignty of the South Ossetian Soviet Democratic Republic.