



Newsletter of the

## Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Donetsk People's Republic

### Main news of the Republic (from November 6 to 13)

***In the period from November 10 to 11, 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.***

Today, as part of the discussion of **the security group** sitting results, the participants of the Contact Group heard a report of the coordinator Ambassador Cevik and focused on the deadlock that has developed with the implementation of the Measures to strengthen the ceasefire.

“Our proposal remains the same - to agree on an updated set of Measures as soon as possible so that it starts to work effectively, because in our opinion, the Ukrainian party completely disavowed the previously signed document, refusing to agree on “interaction within the existing JCCC composition”.

It is critically necessary for full-fledged work to clarify the functionality of the coordination mechanism and sign the amended agreement as quickly as possible.

Since July 27, more than 500 ammunition has been fired across our territory, not mention the use of small arms, of which half (254) was fired in the last two weeks.

Moreover, three servicemen died in our country, and one of them Andrey Pankin was the battalion commander who tried to save his soldier wounded as a result of the AFU mortar fire. The battalion commander was killed by a Ukrainian sniper, which categorically contradicts both the logic of the current unconditional and indefinite ceasefire and internationally recognized humanitarian norms.

If we briefly summarize the current state of affairs on the security track on all agenda issues, including disengagement and mine action, then we can state that, based on the position and proposals of Ukraine on the Roadmap, we need to mine, but not to demine our border, since Ukraine is determined to resolve the conflict by force. This is the worst-case scenario for resolving an armed conflict, which is far from a peaceful political settlement. But today the Ukrainian party has recognized the need to bring its projects in line with the Minsk Agreements and we still expect them to fulfill their promise,” - Natalia Nikonorova said about the negotiating situation.

The main issue of these negotiations of the Contact Group on **the political aspects** was the draft Roadmap and the need for its compliance with the Package of Measures.

“Unfortunately, the Ukrainian party in its draft Action Plan in response to our proposal presented completely distorted the essence of this initiative. The draft Roadmap proposed by us was aimed at clarifying a number of items in the Package of Measures, and was also supposed to unblock the further negotiation process. It covers all negotiating areas and issues, including the procedure and nature of amendments to the constitution, with clear deadlines for the implementation of all political settlement stages.

The project presented by the Ukrainian party is not only internally contradictory, but also directly contradicts the Minsk agreements in a number of items. It is obvious from the draft content that it does not have the goal of peacefully resolving the conflict, but on the contrary, involves a gradual armed seizure of Republics’ territories. It is suggested us to disarm, sign a surrender, let the Ukrainian security forces in, and then, perhaps, hold elections without a permanent law on special status, without changes to the Ukrainian constitution and without any political settlement. The very development of the Ukrainian plan clearly pursues only one goal, indicated in their paragraph 7 - "to convene a summit in the Normandy format."

After repeated remarks and questions from our side, Kravchuk nevertheless recognized the need to bring the overall final plan agreed by the DPR, LPR and Ukraine in line with the Minsk agreements. We also look forward to receiving from the Ukrainian party detailed written comments on our draft Roadmap by the next meeting, as well as to start effective work on agreeing on the final document,” - Natalia Nikonorova stated.

This plan must be approved by the Verkhovna Rada, which will at the same time confirm Kiev's adherence to the Minsk agreements, and finally endow the Ukrainian delegation with real powers for a political settlement. The DPR Plenipotentiary expressed confidence that a common Roadmap would allow planning and essentially saturating the work of all profile groups to achieve real progress in the negotiation process.

As part of the discussion **of humanitarian issues**, we reminded the Ukrainian party that no new proposals and agreements on the work of the DPR checkpoint were discussed at the negotiating platform.

Accordingly, the passage of citizens is carried out according to the previously approved procedure through the Elenovka checkpoint according to the lists agreed by the Operational Headquarters to counter the spread of coronavirus infection on Monday and Friday.

***It's high time for Kiev to say goodbye to dreams of a military solution through our capitulation - Natalia Nikonorova***

The head of the Ukrainian delegation in Minsk Leonid Kravchuk continues to promote his version of the roadmap for joint steps of the Contact Group, which in theory

should contribute to the implementation of the Package of Measures. But a real document testifies that Kiev's goal on this issue - the implementation of the Package of Measures - is not to promote, but to rewrite and distort the meaning and sequence of its points as much as possible. At yesterday's meeting of the Contact Group, both the Republic and the OSCE representatives have already indicated to the representatives of Ukraine that they have a cart in front of a horse - the points of the Package of Measures in the Ukrainian version of the Roadmap are presented in a broken sequence, and some do not correspond at all to the content of the Package of Measures, which is a gross violation of the entire the logic and structure of this document. Moreover, the mediators and we spent more than an hour to pry out of Leonid Makarovich the recognition of the Ukrainian side's readiness to bring its roadmap in line with the Minsk agreements. What is already abnormal is to ask about the readiness of the Ukrainian delegation to implement the Minsk agreements at the meetings of the Contact Group on the implementation of the Minsk agreements. But in the media space, representatives of Ukraine assure every hour of their reliability and commitment.

Once again we remind to the Ukrainian party: without a political settlement there is no movement towards peace, it's high time to say goodbye to dreams of a military solution to the conflict through our capitulation, disarmament and surrender of Donbass to the mercy of Ukraine. Instead of these illusions, it is worth starting to implement the peace agreements in the order clearly prescribed by the Package of Measures.

Kravchuk with outraged cynicism declares that Ukraine is allegedly punishing the violators of the ceasefire from among the Ukrainian armed formations and calls on the Donetsk People's Republic to do the same. But in fact, the situation is the opposite: the Republic, having fulfilled all the obligations under the Measures to strengthen the ceasefire, which contain a clause on disciplinary responsibility for violators, calls on Kiev to do the same. However, Ukraine is not fulfilling not only this point - it withdrew from the agreement on Measures to strengthen the ceasefire, which was reached with such difficulty in July this year. Ukraine refuses to jointly verify whether there are violations by the JCCC in its current composition, without providing information about the proceedings. At the same time, all our attempts to establish constructive work in Minsk in order to agree as soon as possible an updated package of measures that was required in connection with the withdrawal of Ukraine, Ukraine itself sabotages.

We suspect that the directives of Poroshenko's team that the facts and statements of Ukrainian representatives should differ, Zelensky's team continues to be implemented and even overfulfilled.

***DPR Foreign Minister: a document that appeared on the internet regarding the distribution of ICRC funds in the Republic is a fake***

Kiev, instead of unblocking work of the Minsk track, continues to do not only self-promotion, but also vile provocations. A fake order of the DPR Head has appeared on the network stating that the Republic's authorities allegedly decided to allocate funds received from the International Committee of the Red Cross to government and military officials.

Ukrainian figures, already repeatedly noticed in media untidiness and information fraud, are crossing all permitted boundaries: the image and reputation of one of the largest and most respected humanitarian organizations in the world is being denigrated. Obviously, Kiev is extremely disgusted by the fact that the ICRC, being in fact a neutral humanitarian organization, helps the residents of Donbass on both sides of the contact line equally, without any preferences or discrimination.

We call on the international community to pay attention to the flagrant behavior of Kiev, which is ready to stoop to impudent provocations not only against the Republics, but also against the International Committee of the Red Cross. This incident became another confirmation that international law for Kiev is an empty phrase, that today's Ukraine does not value the UN Security Council or the ICRC, and that there is no question of any good faith intentions of the Ukrainian party to peacefully resolve the Donbass conflict.