



Newsletter of the

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Donetsk People's Republic

31. January 2020

The main events of the Republic

The main media event of the past week (January 27-31) in the Donetsk People's Republic was the "Dialogue on equal terms" event of the Head of the DPR Denis Pushilin with activists of the public movement "Donetsk Republic". Denis Pushilin made a number of statements regarding the most burning issues.

In particular, the Head of the DPR indicated that the authorities of the Republic are considering a set of measures to simplify the procedure for issuing DPR passports:

«A whole range of procedures is being considered: from staff increase of the Migration Service of the Ministry of Internal Affairs to reducing the time for verification activities.»

In addition, Denis Pushilin spoke about his position on the work of mines in the Donetsk People's Republic:

«Personally, I am against the closure of any enterprise, if there is at least some chance for the enterprise to work. We need to discuss the issue not only from an economic perspective, but also from a political one.»

The Head of the DPR also made a resounding statement regarding the fight against manifestations of corruption and the arbitrariness of officials:

"The issue of lawlessness of officials is long overdue in our society. This happens at different levels, starting with the work of entrepreneurs. In such circumstances, it is difficult to develop small and medium-sized businesses, and this is literally the engine of development of our economy. Without medium and small businesses it is impossible to fully fill the budget, and this situation implies a number of other, no less significant problems.

To combat this, a whole range of measures has been developed. We will tighten the responsibility for such actions at the legislative level. We should not finance state institutions, but useful services for the population, specific work. Some do not hear on the ground, others simply do not want to do anything. Without civilian intervention, without people's control and the society, we will not be able to overcome this chaos. There is still enormous work ahead of us, and only by working together can we cope with any problem. "

Minsk process

On Wednesday, January 29, another round of negotiations took place in Minsk. The meeting was marked by the fact that for the first time the meeting of the Contact Group was chaired by the new Special Representative of the OSCE Chairperson in Ukraine and in the Contact Group on Settlement of the Conflict in Ukraine Mrs. Heidi Grau.

The results of the negotiations of the Contact Group are presented by the results of the work of the relevant groups.

The results of the group on security issues:

Today there were concrete proposals from the parties with the coordinates of potential sites and a draft supplement to the Framework Decision, which is necessary for the implementation of the further disengagement of forces and hardware on the table in the Contact Group's security group.

“At the moment, the real discussion process, in fact, has just begun. The OSCE coordinator, summarizing parties' proposals, noted that so far only one of 9 working options coincides, which is located in the area of Oktyabr-Gnutovo checkpoint in the south of our Republic.

At the same time, we note that the parties see coordinates of disengagement areas in this location differently.

It is important to understand that it is necessary to coordinate three areas all together in order to discuss the schedule of disengagement process. In addition, we believe that all this work should be carried out as part of a phased disengagement of forces along the entire line of contact.

To resolve the important aspects of the disengagement process that were left without attention, it is extremely important to coordinate and initial the supplement to the Framework Decision. However, the Ukrainian party deliberately delays the discussion of the issue of new areas, that is why negotiators do not have enough time to work on the supplement. It is encouraging that Mr. Cevik fully shares our position and intends to solve this problem as soon as possible at the level of the group's work” - Natalia Nikonorova said.

We hope that subsequent meetings of the working group on security issues will be held in a more constructive manner.

The results of the group on economical issues:

Today, the sitting of the group on economical issues was quite intense: the negotiators managed to raise and to discuss all agenda issues.

Particular attention was paid to the problems of Ukraine's debt on social payments to residents, however, unfortunately, the Ukrainian position is unchanged so far: no progress has been made in the necessary elaboration of the legal field.

The results of the group humanitarian issues:

Today, in the discussion framework of humanitarian issues, the Contact Group came to the understanding that for all subsequent exchanges it is necessary to implement the following principle: first should be the procedural cleaning, then - the exchange.

Due to the fact that this principle was not implemented in previous exchanges, problems with documents of exchanged persons still remain unresolved.

The results of the group on political issues:

At this sitting of political group, the Republic's representatives had to face a lack of understanding by the Ukrainian party of the importance of fulfilling the political points clearly in the order and in the way that they are enshrined in the Package of Measures.

“In the days preceding the meeting in Minsk and at the meeting, we hear from the Ukrainian negotiators some amateurish interpretations of the Package of Measures, as well as calls to change its sequence. They are trying to convince us that the Minsk agreements are supposedly unfeasible in their current form, and therefore some corrections should be made to them that are of course beneficial to Kiev. However, all such statements are completely absurd and nothing but the desire of the Ukraine's leadership to sabotage their obligations under the Package of Measures”- Natalia Nikonorova noted.

The DPR Plenipotentiary called on representatives of Ukraine not to waste time on destructive activities, but instead focus on the substantive implementation of the current political agenda of the Minsk process:

“Once again, I draw attention to the fact that now within the framework of the Minsk platform it is very important to finally begin to carry out those assignments and obligations that were secured by the final communiqué of the heads of the Normandy Four countries, namely, to begin a constructive discussion on all legal aspects of Donbass special status. The foundation of this work should be the elaboration and coordination with us of all necessary amendments to the law on Donbass special status, while at the same time it is necessary to work on the coordination of the resulting laws, by-laws and agreements, and necessarily on the most important parameter - amendments to the Constitution, which will prescribe all designated above aspects of special status.”