



Newsletter of the

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Donetsk People's Republic

19. 02. 2020

The main events of the Republic

(from February 7 to February 14)

1. Denis Pushilin: Ukraine does not want to fulfill Minsk-2, therefore it is not implemented

On Wednesday, February 12, it was 5 years since the signing of the Minsk-2 agreements. Denis Pushilin, the Head of the Donetsk People's Republic, expressed his opinion on a reason Ukraine agreed to sign them, but never implement them.

- Denis Vladimirovich, "Minsk-2" was signed 5 years ago. What do you think is the significance of this document? Did you then believe that it will be implemented during 2015 and that after that peace will come in Donbass?

- The signing of the Minsk agreements five years ago is connected with the victory of the defenders of the DPR and LPR at the front and the infamous for the Armed forces of Ukraine Debaltsevo Cauldron.

Few modern treaties, ratified at such a level as the UN Security Council, can be compared with the Minsk agreements in the number of comments, discussions, mentions by world leaders and in the media. The point, of course, is not in the numerous discussions. Although it is important that for all five years the conflict in the territory of Donbass has not left the geopolitical agenda. The most significant result of the Minsk agreements is a halt to the acute bloody phase of the war on our land.

As for the hope for peace, we have never trusted the Ukrainian side, and that time too. Remember, even during the negotiations in the capital of Belarus with the leaders of the Normandy Four, Poroshenko did not want to admit the obvious - the complete defeat of the Ukrainian army near Debaltsevo? Ukraine has been behaving this way all these years - dodging and deceiving. Its political leadership can be forced to something only when it's cornered.

- To what extent was measures prescribed in Minsk-2 implemented in practice? What are the reasons that, in general, the implementation of this document has failed?

- Not a single point has been fully implemented. Many people compare the Minsk agreements with the stalemate. I would compare it with a fork tactic in chess – a fork for Ukraine. Any move is losing for Kiev, so Ukraine does not make any moves along the way of fulfilling the agreements.

Now Ukrainian politicians want to change not even the conditions of the game, but the game itself, their cheating goes so far. Deception, sabotage - their main toolkit when it comes to a set of measures.

Ukraine does not want and cannot fulfill the Minsk agreements - this is the reason that the agreements have not yet been implemented.

- Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Andrei Rudenko called into question the meeting in the Normandy Format in April in Berlin. Reason: Kiev practically does not fulfill the agreements undertaken under the “Paris Package”. In your opinion, why did Kiev even under Zelensky, who promised peace in Donbass, sabotage earlier commitments?

- It's one thing to talk about politics as an ordinary citizen, another thing to get the role of an actor by the will of fortune. Not a performer, but a politician on whose actions the fate of people depends. And for actions aimed at peace in Donbass, Zelensky lacks subjectivity: either the “senior partners” will scold him from above or the nationalists will threaten from below.

As a result, we are witnessing political incapacity in official Kiev. Therefore, the fulfillment of the obligations undertaken by Ukraine is not expected.

2. Commentary by Natalia Nikonorova on the occasion of the fifth anniversary of the Package of Measures signing

Summing up the five years since the signing of the Package of Measures, we cannot give a positive assessment on the implementation of this document, unfortunately. Ukraine, in times of President Poroshenko and the current government, has chosen the tactics of delaying as much as possible, and sometimes even openly sabotaging its obligations under the Minsk agreements.

A striking example is that over the 5 years of the 13 items of the Package of Measures, in fact, only the 13th can be considered completed, which refers to the creation of specialized working groups to intensify the activities of the Contact Group. But we don't see even any intensification: all our proposals for the implementation of the Minsk agreements are either completely ignored by Kiev, or distorted, replacing the meaning of the documents signed in Minsk.

It should be understood that, in general, over the past five years, certain progress has been achieved in each of the negotiations areas. Two major exchanges of held persons were held - in 2017 and 2019. As part of the group on economical issues work, it was agreed with the Ukrainian party and the implementation of the schedule for conducting an international audit of CE “Water Donbass Company” was started.

In addition, last year in Minsk it was possible to reach an agreement on an unlimited truce. However, this event, although it allowed to reduce the number of shellings, but still did not stop them completely. The situation is the same with the coordination of

additional measures to control the ceasefire - this is a clearly constructive shift, but Kiev does not properly implement these agreements.

But the most worrisome is the Ukrainian side's unpreparedness for a constructive dialogue on political issues, the long-term resolution of the conflict depends on the successful solution of which. Five years after the signing of the Package of Measures, not a lot has changed in this direction. The only real breakthrough can be considered that at the end of last year, Steinmeier's formula was finally agreed and recorded in writing. Moreover, more than 4 months have already passed from this moment, but we still have not seen a single constructive action on the part of Ukraine towards the implementation of this mechanism in the legislation and further political settlement.

The Ukrainian party has not yet shown any intention to work on all legal aspects of the special status of Donbass, as was prescribed by the leaders of the Normandy format. We have not yet seen a single proposal from Ukrainian representatives on the draft amendments to the law on special status, including the implementation of the provisions of the Steinmeier's formula, draft laws, by-laws and agreements arising from this key act. And the most important thing - proposals and readiness to coordinate with the representatives of the Republics the consolidation of the special status of Donbass in the Constitution has not yet been observed. The Kiev authorities continue to evade all these steps, despite assurances of a responsible attitude to their obligations.

Such an unfair approach generally characterizes the behavior of the Ukrainian representatives: even when Kiev agrees to certain joint decisions within the framework of the Contact Group, these agreements are subsequently either not fully implemented, or are implemented incorrectly, or are not implemented at all.

Once again, we remind the leadership of Ukraine that the Package of Measures is uncontested and, given its international legal status, is required to be implemented in accordance with precisely this order and the meaning of the points that were approved by the guarantor states and enshrined in a UN Security Council resolution. Therefore, in the future, Kiev has only two options for the scenario: either precisely and strictly to fulfill its obligations under the Minsk agreements, or to bear full and unconditional responsibility for disrupting a peaceful settlement with all the ensuing consequences.

3. The results of the group humanitarian issues (February 12)

Today, in the meeting room of the humanitarian group, an active exchange of views took place on the roadmap for the search for missing people: the parties discussed the structure, logistics issues and the participation of various specialists and structures in this mechanism. Of course, this is a positive shift in work. Also at the moment on the negotiators table there are a number of materials relating to both the exchange and the search for missing persons, which can already be worked out practically.

4. The results of the group on security issues

Today, the negotiators of the Contact Group security group continued to discuss the parties' proposals with the coordinates of potential sites and the draft additions to the Framework decision, which is necessary for the implementation of further disengagement of forces and hardware.

"The work on agreeing the new sites, as well as additions to the Framework decision, is proceeding rather intensively. On the eve of the meeting, the Ukrainian party made

provocative adjustments to the previously designated coordinates of the sites, which significantly complicated the approval process.

Today, a site in the area of the October – Gnutovo checkpoint in the south of our Republic is being actively and thoroughly discussed, but it's too early to talk about the parties agreeing on its coordinates.

We, as well as representatives of the OSCE Mission and the Russian Federation, clearly understand the importance and need for disengagement along the entire contact line between the parties and are aimed at intensifying the coordination of the following three sections. Only such an approach will save the lives and health of civilians, therefore, all possible efforts are being made to speed up the coordination process: we proposed to continue work remotely between meetings in Minsk” - Natalia Nikonorova told.

We would like to remind that in order to resolve the important aspects that were left without attention during the subsequent dilution, it is extremely important to coordinate and initial the addition to the Framework decision. Today, the Ukrainian party again delayed the discussion of the issue of new sections, which is why the negotiators did not have enough time to move on to work on the supplement.

5. The results of the group on economical issues

Today, the meeting of the group on economical issues was quite active: 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, but, unfortunately, the Ukrainian position has not changed: there is no progress in the necessary elaboration of the legal field.

Issues related to the audit of CE “Water Donbass Company” were also discussed, representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross who actively participate in the search for solutions to the accumulated problems took part in the meeting.

“The parties continued to explore possible options for the priority aspects of exploiting the technical resources of the CE “ Water Donbass Company ”in order to eliminate controversial issues and ensure the stability of the infrastructure facility” – DPR Plenipotentiary Natalia Nikonorova said.

6. The results of the group on political issues

At today's meeting of the political group, Republics’ representatives encountered a misunderstanding by the Ukrainian party of both the order and content of the most important items of the Package of Measures.

“Kiev’s representatives continue attempts to transfer negotiations on a political settlement in a direction convenient for themselves. First of all, this concerns the conditions for granting Donbass a special status. The Ukrainian party is deliberately trying to skip the issue of the entry into force of the law on special status and insists on discussing issues that are either not within the competence of the Contact Group or are too premature. Once again, we had to urge Kiev to re-read the text of the Package of Measures, which clearly indicated what should be carried out and in what order.

Speaking about the Steinmeier’s formula, we should remind that its text, which was agreed by the representatives of Kiev in writing, is still not implemented in Ukrainian legislation. After two months from the meeting of the leaders of the Normandy Format, we can say with confidence that Kiev has ignored all its obligations in the political sphere and has not yet provided its positions. Although in the final communique of the Paris meeting

on December 10, the leaders highlighted a whole separate paragraph on the harmonization of all legal aspects of Donbass special status and the implementation of Steinmeier's formula in Ukrainian legislation. Against this background, statements by the Ukrainian leadership, who are confident that international mediators will make concessions on political issues, look especially cynical" - Natalia Nikonorova said.

At the same time, the DPR Plenipotentiary noted that Ukraine's representatives at today's meeting promised to provide their positions on the legal aspects of the special status of Donbass. However, so far these statements have not been supported by any concrete actions, and there is no particular hope that these promises will be fulfilled by the next meeting in Minsk.

Natalia Nikonorova once again emphasized that five years after the signing of the Package of Measures, it was time for Ukraine to come to terms with its provisions, stop thinking of alternatives to the Minsk agreements and begin to consistently implement all the points of the document approved by the guarantor countries and by the UN Security Council.

7. Natalia Nikonorova met students of the Legatus Youth Diplomacy Center

On February 13, DPR Foreign Minister Natalia Nikonorova visited the Legatus Youth Diplomacy Center.

During informal communication with students, important topics were raised such as the implementation of the DPR foreign policy, realization of public diplomacy, difficulties in the Minsk negotiation process and others.

Students showed great interest and actively supported the conversation. In particular, questions were raised about the everyday life of the Minister and the work of foreign ministry, about the populist policy of the Ukraine's President in relation to Donbass, about the investment Republican potential and others.

In addition, the meeting participants were interested in the prospects of the DPR activity in the international arena, as well as the potential of the Republic as a subject of international relations.

At the end of the event, students congratulated her on the Day of the diplomatic worker and thanked for the support of the beginning DPR diplomats.