



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

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**The main events of the Republic
(from February 21 to February 28)**

On Wednesday, February 26, the next round of negotiations took place in Minsk. The results of the negotiations of the Contact Group are presented as part of the results of the work of relevant groups.

The results of the group on security issues (February 26)

26 February 2020

Today, at a meeting of the Contact Group, as part of a discussion of security issues, the negotiators focused on agreeing the specific coordinates of potential disengagement sites, as well as on a draft supplement to the Framework decision, which is necessary for the implementation of further separation of forces and hardware.

“Following the discussions of last meeting, we carefully worked out the coordinates of two locations, taking into account all the proposals, and sent them to the coordinator in advance.

The Republic's negotiators provided comprehensive arguments on the updated options, in which all the principles envisaged by the Framework Decision were observed.

Unfortunately, today it can be stated that the process of coordinating three new sites for the disengagement of forces and hardware is being delayed due to the position of the Ukrainian party, which is trying to promote its options that do not meet the requirements of the Framework Decision, and, in fact, do not involve a real withdrawal of its forces at the discussed locations” - Natalia Nikonorova said.

In addition, due to the growing escalation on the contact line, representatives of the Republics demanded the compliance of additional measures to strengthen and control the unlimited ceasefire agreed upon in July 2019, including the conduct of relevant proceedings.

The results of the group on economical and humanitarian issues (February 26)

26 February 2020

Today, the negotiators of the economical group discussed the most important agenda items of the meeting. Particular attention was paid to problems in the work of CE "Company" Water of Donbass ", Ukraine's debts on social obligations and wages.

Questions were also raised regarding the international audit of CE "Company" Water of Donbass", in the organization of which representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross take part. The ICRC has already held a tender. In addition, the parties agreed to exchange their proposals in writing in the near future on a mechanism that will allow settlements of water payments.

Regarding social payments to residents of the Republics, unfortunately, the Ukrainian position has not changed yet: no proposals were submitted on the necessary elaboration of the legal field. However, for representatives of the Republics this is a priority issue on the agenda and we will stop all attempts to reduce its relevance.

In turn, the negotiators of the humanitarian group today focused on working out a mechanism for searching missing persons, and also discussed the problems of completing all procedures after the exchange of held persons.

The results of the group on political issues (February 26)

26 February 2020

During this round of negotiations in the political group, significant results were not achieved, but there was a certain positive precedent.

"The representative of Ukraine finally recognized that the amendments necessary for unblocking the law on Donbass special status, as well as all regulatory legal acts arising from the Package of Measures, should be adopted and published before the early local elections.

We welcome the recognition by the Ukrainian party of the necessity and priority of these actions, confirming that the coordination of local elections modalities is the final stage on political track" - Natalia Nikonorova said.

The DPR Plenipotentiary emphasized once again that in connection with this, within the framework of the Minsk agreements, a huge layer of work will have to be done together with representatives of the Republics to coordinate all legal aspects of Donbass special status, and most importantly, amendments to the constitution to consolidate it.

"Despite the fact that today we heard from the representative of Kiev a clearly idea, I want to emphasize that voicing it is not enough: we still expect the promised official written position from the Ukrainian side on these issues" - Natalia Nikonorova stated.