



Newsletter of the

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

18. 03. 2020

### **The main events of the Republic (from March 06. to March 13.)**

#### ***The head of the DPR introduced a high-alert regime in the Republic in connection with the coronavirus***

High availability mode introduced in the DPR in connection with the spread of COVID-19. This is stated in the decree No. 57 of the DPR Head Denis Pushilin.

“In connection with the threat of the spread of a new coronavirus infection caused by 2019-nCoV in the DPR, in accordance with Articles 59, 60 of the DPR Constitution, I decide: to introduce a high-alert mode in the territory of the Donetsk People's Republic,” the document says.

The decree also instructs the DPR Ministry of Health and the People's Police Directorate to provide round-the-clock duty at the state border and at checkpoints on the demarcation line to identify residents with fever and send them to the infectious diseases wards to establish a diagnosis.

Residents who arrived in the Republic from countries where cases of infection with coronavirus are registered, in case of respiratory symptoms, it is necessary to call a doctor at home and follow the requirements of doctors for self-isolation.

A separate point obliges those who come from China, Spain, Italy, Iran, South Korea, France, Germany and Ukraine to provide self-isolation at home for two weeks from the day they arrived in the DPR. In this mode, it is prescribed not to attend work or study, not to stay in public places for a minimum.

In addition, it is forbidden to enter residents with fever and respiratory symptoms from Ukraine and the territory of the DPR temporarily controlled by Kiev if they do not have registration in the Republic.

According to the decree, republican employers must organize control over the body temperature of employees, and if the norm is exceeded, "assist workers in ensuring compliance with the self-isolation regime at home."

In educational institutions, it is also prescribed to remove participants from the educational process from working and studying in case of a rise in body temperature with placement in a hospital isolation ward for diagnosis, and a ban on mass events with more than a thousand participants will also be prohibited.

### ***Minsk process:***

On Wednesday the Contact Group meeting was held in an expanded format, and Deputy Head of the Presidential Administration of the Russian Federation Dmitry Kozak and head of the office of the President of Ukraine Andrey Yermak took part in it.

So, the participants of the Contact Group for the first time compiled and agreed on protocol decisions in almost all areas of work. Another significant advance was the agreement on the need to establish a special mechanism to discuss issues within a political group.

Its idea is to create a platform for direct discussion by the two parties to the conflict of topics requiring settlement in accordance with the Package of Measures.

We welcome today's decisions as a positive impetus for the direct interaction of the conflict parties, we hope that this will stimulate the work of the political group and lead to the necessary results in other areas.

The negotiators of the **security group** actively discussed the specific coordinates of potential disengagement sites, as well as the draft additions to the Framework decision, which is necessary for the implementation of further withdrawal of forces and hardware.

“The discussion in the subgroup on security issues was quite intense, the Ukrainian party tried to sabotage a direct discussion with the representatives of the new sites’ borders. At the same time, the negotiators’ position of official Kiev remained unchanged - they did not prepare any compromise proposals.

All these factors did not add constructiveness and did not lead to progress in coordinating the boundaries of new sites. At the moment, all areas previously proposed by the parties remain in operation, of which two out of three conditionally coincide on our territory: in the area of the checkpoint “Oktyabr - Gnutovo” and the Donetsk filter station - Avdeevka industrial zone.

In this regard, the Contact Group instructed the participants of the security subgroup during the week to work out compromise proposals for absolutely all options proposed earlier for potential sites. Note that our negotiators worked out and proposed compromise options for the last meeting on February 26 which, unfortunately, remained without the attention from the Ukrainian side” - said Natalia Nikonorov.

In addition, the plenipotentiary representatives of the Republics in the Contact Group as part of the work of the security subgroup in connection with the ongoing escalation on the contact line demanded that the Ukrainian side comply with the additional measures agreed in July 2019 to strengthen and control the unlimited ceasefire, including the conduct of relevant proceedings.

### ***Statement by Natalia Nikonorova on the fake from the Western and Ukrainian media***

An information campaign has been started in Western and Ukrainian mass media aimed at discrediting the Donetsk People's Republic.

On March 3, in the Dutch newspaper Telegraaf (De Telegraaf) an exclusive interview was published by the commander of the ground forces of the Netherlands, Maarten Weijden, in which he accused the defenders of our Republic of not providing assistance to international experts who were searching for the wreckage of the plane and the remains of victims in the area of the crash of flight MH 17.

According to Maarten Weijden, the militia "behaved extremely aggressively, demonstrating disregard for the victims of the crash." To confirm his words, he referred to the statements of Prime Minister Mark Rutte and then Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands Frans Timmermans at a meeting of the UN Security Council on July 21, 2014.

During the interview, the Dutch military leader apparently forgot that the Cabinet of Mark Rutte subsequently not only acknowledged all these allegations as speculation, but also expressed regret at the abusive statements addressed to local residents who qualitatively and conscientiously completed the work of collecting the remains of the victims and sending them to Netherlands. He also forgot that immediately after the plane crash, the militia unilaterally announced a ceasefire over the next three days to ensure search work was carried out and guaranteed the safety of everyone who participated in them.

Obviously, the publication authors, striving to appropriately adjust public opinion in anticipation of the opening trial, hoped that readers would not pay attention to these facts and believe the fakes distributed by the largest Dutch newspaper. But they were wrong.

Now about the Ukrainian media. The fake news posted in Telegraaf, without any critical analysis, instantly scattered in the media space of Ukraine. At the same time, Ukrainian propagandists carefully forgot that it was precisely because of shelling of the Malaysian Boeing's fall area by AFU artillery, that the start of evacuation operations was postponed several times, and Dutch investigators could only arrive at the crash site on August 6, 2014, where they worked, again due to shelling of the Ukrainian artillery, only 20 hours.

Once again, we draw attention of the international community to the inadmissibility of such attempts to distort the truth and urge the Dutch side to stop speculating around the tragedy with the Malaysian Boeing.