



Newsletter of the

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Donetsk People's Republic

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Main news of the Republic (from May 10 to May 18)

Natalia Nikonorova commented on the "disclosure" of Kiev about the presence of Russian passports among citizens of the Republic

The day before, the Vice Prime Minister of Ukraine Alexey Reznikov gave an interview to one of the Ukrainian news media, during which he showed a photograph of the Russian passport of my colleague, the representative of the Lugansk People's Republic at the talks in Minsk. Moreover, the presence of this photo is presented as a kind of "victory" and "great merit of intelligence", and is also accompanied by comments that allegedly the owners of Russian passports can not represent Donbass in the framework of negotiations.

However, Ukrainian leaders in their trying to inflate the scandal overlook some points. Firstly, the whole entourage of a passport photograph as a great and monumental exposure is completely inappropriate and even ridiculous, since Mr. Deinogo, and other representatives of the Republics in Minsk, and, in general, all the residents of Donbass who have obtained Russian passports, as for today there are more 200 thousand people are not ashamed and do not hide this fact. On the contrary, we are extremely grateful to the authorities of the Russian Federation and personally to the President for this humane decision to give us the opportunity to obtain citizenship by a simplified procedure. This decision was a necessary measure, since the Ukrainian authorities, which for 6 years have been limiting the people of Donbass in their rights and freedoms, have made and continue to make every effort to maximize the complexity and procedure of crossing the contact line, and to obtain or change any Ukrainian documents.

Secondly, it is necessary to conduct negotiations on conflict settlement with those people who were born, live and work in Donbass, who have not left their homeland. If Kiev is really interested in a settlement, and not in a game for public. The fact that these people have a Russian passport is another reminder for Ukrainian side that every day less and less residents of Donbass believe in Kiev's peaceful intentions. The more Ukrainian authorities infringe our rights and freedoms, the more hatred and misunderstanding will be present both in the actions of Kiev and in the rhetoric of its representatives, the wider the gap between Ukraine and the Republics will be.

Thirdly, foreseeing all further attempts to “expose” by Ukraine, I publish a photo on which my identification documents are presented. This “set” is typical for Republic’s residents, it very eloquently reflects the course of events in Donbass over a certain time period: we come from the USSR, then we were part of Ukraine, then, after 2014, when the new state betrayed us and launched a war against us, we were forced to defend ourselves and follow our own way, build and develop the Donetsk People’s Republic. While from Ukraine we receive only shells, injuries and deaths of civilians, pain and destruction, an economic, transport blockade, illegal detention and infringement of our rights, from the Russian Federation we receive humanitarian assistance both, as in in the form of white KAMAZ trucks, and in the form of decrees designed to make our lives easier. It’s time for the Kiev authorities to understand: they have made every possible effort to change Donbass, it is not already the Ukrainian region that it was, and they continue. The armed forces shoot their people only for the first time, a second time they shoot foreign people. And Ukraine has fired monstrously in six years.

We are ready to talk with Kiev only on one condition: if the Ukrainian authorities finally realized that they would have to speak with representatives of the Donbass people directly, who now live in the DPR and LPR, and not with some convenient, carefully selected people, who will follow manuals from Kiev technologists.

Minsk process:

In the period from May 13 to 14, the round of negotiations took place in Minsk. 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 at the previous meeting of the Contact Group, in terms of **security issues**, unfortunately, no progress has been made on any agenda issue. Ukraine could only provide us with the new composition of its delegation.

“The sharp escalation that led to the wounded among the civilian population, including five minors, as well as nostalgic Ukrainian references to the 2018 proposals in the field of security make us think that Kiev is trying to continue Poroshenko’s policy. It was this "policy" that led to the most severe shelling of the Republic’s territory, as well as to the most tense situation in the negotiation process. In conditions when it is extremely important to coordinate additional measures to control the ceasefire as urgently as possible, representatives of Kiev are leading the negotiation process to absurdity, pretending that they allegedly did not receive draft proposals on these measures. We would like to recall that at previous meetings the Ukrainian side not only saw these projects, but also actively participated in their discussion, deleting from them the most essential provisions, in particular, the ban on any kind of fire, reconnaissance and sabotage activities, as well as the need for operational communications.

Once again, we emphasize that our main priority in the work of the security group is the urgent approval and signing of additional measures that would allow us to strengthen the current indefinite truce. The urgent need for this was also supported by the mediators of the negotiation process - the OSCE and the Russian Federation. We hope that through joint efforts we will be able to overcome Ukraine’s reluctance to secure the

signature of its representative to follow all the conditions of an unlimited ceasefire” – DPR Plenipotentiary said.

Humanitarian and economic groups today continued to work on the agenda. New representatives of the Ukrainian side are just beginning to delve into the topics discussed, no concrete decisions have been reached in these areas.

The new round of negotiations on the implementation of the political bloc of the Package of Measures, in which the new Kiev’s representative took part, did not lead to significant results.

Kiev earlier committed to send its written proposals to the **political group** on integrating Steinmeier’s formula in Ukrainian legislation, in fact - a draft law. Nevertheless, while the Ukrainian side has not yet submitted to the Contact Group a single draft normative legal act, and representatives of Kiev refused to give an answer to the direct question about the possibility and timing of their submission.

“Despite the large-scale PR campaign that the Ukrainian authorities launched in their media about the effectiveness of their decision to partially replace and expand the delegation of negotiators in the Minsk format, this did not lead to any progress. And it is absolutely expected - Kiev has repeatedly replaced its representatives before, but this only interferes with productive negotiations. In the conditions of the Ukrainian side’s refusal to provide their written positions, we have to communicate with new representatives essentially from scratch, re-speaking and discussing what discussions had already been about” – DPR Plenipotentiary stated.

Kiev also does not demonstrate a desire to advance in the issue of coordinating the work regulations of the Contact and working groups. The discussion on this agenda item is ongoing, but the Ukrainian delegation proposes ideas that contradict the Minsk agreements.

“Accordingly, the negotiation time is not spent on constructive activities, but on proving to representatives of Ukraine why their proposal is not acceptable” - Natalia Nikonorova said.

The DPR Plenipotentiary once again called on the Ukrainian side to begin substantive and leading to real progress on the political track actions, namely, to provide, review and agree, within the framework of the Contact Group, draft normative legal acts defining and legislatively fixing the whole spectrum of aspects of Donbass special status and, in particular, its consolidation in the Constitution.