



Newsletter of the

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

03. 06. 2020

### Main news of the Republic (from May 22 to May 29)

***In the period from May 25 to May 27, the next round of negotiations took place. 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, at a meeting of the Contact Group with regard to **security issues**, Republics insisted on the urgent need to solve the first task that the working group could not fulfill yesterday - the approval of a package of additional measures to strengthen and control the unlimited ceasefire.

“We reminded the Ukrainian side the reason of an introduction of a full combat readiness regime. This decision was made because on March 14, 2020, when the first civilian casualty this year was recorded on our territory, the Ukrainian armed forces fired more than 10 thousand ammunition for residential neighborhoods and civilian infrastructure. The result of these barbaric shelling was four dead and 22 wounded civilians, including five minors.

There have been no such tragic mass consequences for a long time. That is why our units were put on full alert in order to be able to adequately respond to the AFU aggression.

Our main goal is an effective, complete and comprehensive ceasefire. We would like to stop coordinating some additional windows of silence, we would like to completely ceasefire so that our people can relief and start living without fear for their life and health.

The only peaceful and effective way to achieve this at the moment is the speedy approval and signing of the much-needed package of additional measures for ceasefire control” - Natalia Nikonorova said about the course of the Contact Group meeting.

In this regard, the DPR Plenipotentiary proposed to focus the work of the Contact Group on the line-by-line coordination of each measure, taking into account the measures already agreed upon. At the same time, nothing is crossed out: it is necessary to follow the path of reinforcement, for example, add to the existing list those measures dictated by practice, in particular, establish a communication channel for direct interaction by authorized persons.

“However, the Ukrainian side, to everyone’s bewilderment, managed to find the most incredible excuses even today, so as not to approve and sign the list of measures” - Natalia Nikonorova summed up.

Today, the negotiators of the Contact Group heard a report by the OSCE coordinator on the results of the work of the **group on economical issues**.

The main agenda issues were considered, among which special attention was paid to problems in the work of the CE “Water of Donbass”, Ukraine's debts on social obligations and wages.

In addition, Republics’ representatives reminded the Ukrainian side that it still hasn’t even provided its roadmap with proposals for restoring socio-economic ties, which is prescribed by the Package of Measures and the final communiqué of Normandy Four heads, although it was high time for them discuss, coordinate with representatives of the Republics and begin to put into practice. So far, nothing but regular promises, the Kiev negotiators could not offer.

During the discussion of the most important issue on the agenda of the **working group on humanitarian issues** - the exchange of detained persons, in particular, the speedy completion of the procedural cleansing of persons released earlier in the exchange process, Ukrainian representatives stated that they did not undertake such obligations.

The coordinator, Ambassador Frisch noticed such a regression in the position of the Ukrainian negotiators and recalled that these agreements have been in force since 2017; he urged Kiev to return to fulfilling its obligations.

Also, the Ukrainian negotiators refused to discuss at the working group the urgent issue of creating a humanitarian corridor for urgent citizens to move to adjacent territories through the control checkpoints, which are now closed due to coronavirus infection. Representatives of Ukraine, for unclear reasons, tried to connect this issue with security issues. However, all participants in the Contact Group called on the Ukrainian side to nevertheless provide their position for the implementation of the necessary humanitarian procedure. We hope that this will be done soon.

At today's meeting of the **political group**, the Ukrainian party again sabotaged the discussion of agenda issues.

“Despite the change of negotiators from Ukraine in the political group, we continue to hear all the same hackneyed attempts to distort the essence of the Package of Measures and, in particular, the mechanism for political settlement.

Most actively, the Ukrainian party is trying to advance an idea that the allegedly basis of political part of the Minsk agreements is the holding of local elections. It fundamentally contradicts not only the very essence of the Package of Measures, but also the causes of the conflict. The main goal of the political part of the Minsk agreements is to legislatively, on an ongoing basis, consolidate the Donbass special status, all legal aspects, which should be agreed with Republics’ representatives” - Natalia Nikonorova said.

We would like to recall that before starting to talk about the elections, Kiev needs to submit for approval by the Contact Group a number of draft normative legal acts, including the law on Donbass special status with the text of Steinmeier's formula implemented in it and other necessary amendments, as well as the draft amendments to the Constitution.

So far, the Ukrainian side has not submitted a single draft regulatory act or even a general list of these acts for approval by the Contact Group.

"In order to intensify the work on the implementation of the Package of Measures political block, the Republic again sent to the representatives of Ukraine our vision of the act amending the law on Donbass special status. Nevertheless, Kiev has not yet found the time to read this document and comment it, stating that there is no need to coordinate the entire law, but only the implementation of Steinmeier's formula.

Representatives of Ukraine promised to voice their position only after the Republic called on them to re-read the communiqué following the meeting of the heads of the Normandy Four countries, which clearly states the need to coordinate with the Republic's representatives all legal aspects of Donbass special status. However, we insist on the provision of written positions of Kiev.

It's time to move from an exchange of views to the substantive implementation of both the political part of the Package of Measures and the practical implementation of those instructions that were given in the Normandy format" - the DPR Plenipotentiary stated.