



Newsletter of the

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Donetsk People's Republic

Main news of the Republic (from August 14 to 21)

The harvest of grain and leguminous crops in the DPR exceeded 400,000 tons - DPR Minister of Agriculture

The grain harvest at the end of the 2020 harvest exceeded 400,000 tons. The Minister of Agroindustrial Policy and Food Artem Kramarenko reported this to the DPR Head Denis Pushilin during the head of state's working trip to the south of the country.

"We brought in it quickly enough, 480 harvesters were involved. It is harvested 154,000 hectares of grain and legumes. About 410,000 tons were collected in the initially recorded weight" - the Minister said.

"This year DPR can export about 100 thousand tons of wheat and barley" - Kramarenko

He specified that of the total harvest, wheat is about 315,000 tons. After processing, which will last a month, its credited weight will be about 308,000 tons against the needs of the Republic of 240,000.

"This year, grain and leguminous crops were harvested by a third more than last year. We are practically fully provided with grain with a large reserve for export potential" - Kramarenko stressed.

In the period from August 18 to August 19, 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, within the framework of the **security group** results' discussion, the Contact Group members noted a certain productivity of both the work itself and implementation by parties of additional measures to strengthen and control the current ceasefire regime.

"Of course, it is obvious that the additional measures to strengthen and control the existing ceasefire, signed and implemented by conflict parties, bring positive results. Those few violations that are recorded as violations of certain points of additional measures are worked out within the framework of the coordination mechanism with the

assistance of the JCCC of the parties, as well as with the assistance of the OSCE SMM, which monitors, verifies and publishes objective facts of violations by the parties 24x7.

We told about observations on all facts of AFU violations, in particular positional violations within the area of disengagement of forces and hardware in the area of Petrovskoe, which was recorded by the Mission, as well as attempts to fortify under the water conduit in the area of the village of Shumy.

In the near future, we expect that Mission reports contain verifications of the elimination of violations within the disengagement area, as well as the results of monitoring the real situation in the area of Shumy.

We hope that the Ukrainian party will show even more will so that violations of the ceasefire regime and additional measures to strengthen and control it stop completely, and the long-awaited peace is finally established in Donbass” - DPR Plenipotentiary shared the negotiations course.

The participants also discussed issues related to updating documents of the Contact Group on demining action.

“Based on the results of the agreement reached at the meeting of the working group on security issues, we sent a draft of the updated Decision of the Contact Group on demining action, which, in fact, only removes the time limitations of the existing document and the binding to the previously worked out 12 areas. This project accordingly transfers the Decision into a framework status, which will only allow further coordination of new annexes on demining areas to it, by analogy with the Framework Decision on the disengagement of forces and hardware.

Today it is quite possible to sign the project, as well as an annex to it with 20 new sections, subject to the agreement of all coordinates, which will subsequently allow implementing the instructions of the leaders of the Normandy Four in terms of humanitarian demining.

However, at the moment we are awaiting the promised written confirmation from the Ukrainian delegation about the obligation to apply to the Verkhovna Rada with a request to cancel the fourth paragraph of the resolution on the appointment of the next local elections, which does not comply with the Minsk agreements.

Accordingly, as soon as we receive confirmation from the official Kiev about conditions of reaching agreements, for example, on demining or disengagement of forces and hardware, we will sign the indicated projects. We hope for concrete steps on the part of Ukraine, which are especially important today for maintaining positive trends in the established truce” - Natalia Nikonorova said.

At today's talks, the Ukrainian delegation led by the new leadership demonstrated a more operational approach to solving a number of agenda topical issues, but also attempts to imitate the fulfillment of obligations.

“Today we again raised the issue of removing from the resolution of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine on the appointment of the next local elections of those points that contradict the Minsk agreements. We have already stated that without their withdrawal Kiev risks leading to a dead end not only in the discussion of **political issues**, but also in all other aspects of a peaceful settlement. Without a solution to this issue, the grounds for further disengagement of forces and hardware, demining, exchange of prisoners and other agenda items remain unclear.

The head of the Ukrainian delegation agreed to prepare a request to amend these points to the Verkhovna Rada. We hope that in the near future the wording will be brought in line with our question. This is especially important in connection with the position of the Verkhovna Rada, which adopted an act contrary to the Package of Measures by an absolute majority of 326 votes. Given this state of affairs, Kiev will not be able to adopt the laws stipulated by the Minsk agreements” - Natalia Nikonorova said.

The DPR Plenipotentiary stressed that the Contact Group should not deal with the internal political differences of the Ukrainian authorities. Our task is to work on a political conflict settlement. That is why it is important to record in writing all of Ukraine's obligations regarding laws, bylaws and agreements concerning aspects of Donbass special status.

Today, as part of the discussion of **humanitarian issues**, the new head of the Ukrainian delegation personally confirmed Ukraine's readiness to work in four categories, which will allow us to work out the exchange lists as soon as possible. To continue our work, we are waiting for the official letter announced by Mr. Kravchuk.

In general, we welcome such activity of the leader and the unblocking of discussions in this area, however, it is necessary to remember the obligations of Ukraine to carry out all the necessary procedural courses of actions in order to complete previous exchanges, and to amend the legal norms that contradict the Minsk Agreements in order to continue working on their basis.