

HIGHLIGHTS

PULSE OF PEACE IN DONBAS



April 30 – May 6, 2021

THE US SECRETARY OF STATE ANTONY BLINKEN MADE A VISIT TO UKRAINE

The official visit [lasted](#) two days. As [announced](#) by a spokesperson of the US Department of State, the purpose of the visit was to reiterate the steadfast US support for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine against Russian's ongoing aggression. One of the negotiation points between Blinken and Zelenskyy was the [development of the Minsk process](#) and the ways for the US to support it. The details of the negotiations have not been disclosed.

RUSSIA INSISTS ON 'L/DNR' PARTICIPATION IN THE MINSK PROCESS

The Trilateral Contact Group (TCG) failed to agree on the 'Easter ceasefire' as Russia had been insisting on the document being signed by the so-called 'L/DPR', [said](#) a spokesperson of the Ukrainian delegation Oleksii Arestovych. [According to a Ukrainian political observer Vitalii Portnikov](#), the Russian side has blocked the process within the Trilateral Contact Group to aim for the direct talks between Ukraine and 'L/DPR' where Russia could be a mediator. The Head of the Ukrainian delegation Leonid Kravchuk [stated](#) that he was ready to support the changes to the Minsk format of the negotiations on Donbas or to refuse from this format if the attempts fail to make this process efficient again. At the same time, a certain decision on this matter can be made with regards to the results of the upcoming negotiations between the presidents of the US and Russia, as well as the possible meeting of the presidents of Russia and Ukraine.

G7 ADOPTED A COMMUNIQUE CALLING ON RUSSIA TO WITHDRAW ALL ITS MILITARY FORCES FROM THE BORDER WITH UKRAINE

“We are deeply concerned by the ongoing negative mode of Russia’s irresponsible and destabilizing behaviour”: a [communique](#) was issued following a meeting of G7 foreign ministers in London on 5 May calling on Russia to pull back all the military forces it had amassed at the Ukrainian border. The US is observing the situation, said Antony Blinken, US Secretary of State in his interview to CBS. Nearly 80,000 of Russian troops remain at its border with Ukraine, which is the largest amount amassed there since the annexation of Crimea, [according to The New York Times](#) quoting high level officials in the US President’s Administration.

RUSSIA CAN USE THE FACT THAT MANY PEOPLE IN THE SELF-PROCLAIMED ‘DPR’ AND ‘LPR’ HOLD RUSSIAN PASSPORTS FOR ITS MILITARY ATTACK AGAINST UKRAINE

[Said](#) Ukraine’s permanent representative at the international organizations in Vienna Evhen Tsymbaliuk at a session of the OSCE Permanent Council on 6 May. At the same time, [according to Ukraine’s foreign minister Dmytro Kuleba](#), international reaction to this process is not harsh enough.

INVOLVEMENT OF RUSSIAN INTELLIGENCE OFFICERS IN THE DONBAS CONFLICT

Christo Grozev [told](#) Deutsche Welle about a new Bellingcat [investigation](#) and the involvement of the personnel of the Main Intelligence Department of Russia’s General Staff in the events in Donbas.