

# Ukraine Crisis, Russia Sanctions and the EU:

## Breaking the deadlock in the Minsk process



**Prof. Dr. Hrant Kostanyan**

## **Ukraine, Russia and the EU**

### **Breaking the deadlock in the Minsk process**

**Hrant Kostanyan and Stefan Meister**

**No. 423 / June 2016**

---

#### **Abstract**

Although the Minsk process brought about a de-escalation of the conflict in Eastern Ukraine, not all of its 13 points have been implemented, including a ceasefire and withdrawal of heavy weaponry. In the absence of a military option, economic sanctions have become the core instrument of the EU and the US, to respond to Russia's aggression. At the end of June 2016, when EU Heads of State and Government meet to discuss the extension of sanctions against Russia, they should bear in mind that Russia did not implement the commitments it took upon itself in the framework of the Minsk

Link to the study <https://www.ceps.eu/publications/ukraine-russia-and-eu-breaking-deadlock-minsk-process>

# Minsk II Assessment

Points	State of implementation
1. Ceasefire	Not implemented
2. Withdrawal of all heavy weapons and establishment of security zone	Partially implemented
3. Monitoring and verification of ceasefire and withdrawal of heavy weapons by the OSCE	Partially implemented
4. Modalities of local elections	Partially implemented
5. Amnesty	Not implemented
6. Exchange of prisoners	Partially implemented
7. Humanitarian assistance	Not implemented
8. Full restoration of socio-economic relations	Partially implemented
9. Handover of control over the Russia-Ukraine border to Kyiv	Not implemented
10. Withdrawal of all foreign armed forces, military equipment, and mercenaries	Not implemented
11. Constitutional reform including decentralisation	Partially implemented
12. Holding elections in accordance with OCSE standards and monitored by ODHIR	Not implemented
13. Trilateral working groups	Implemented, but with limited results

# Russian reluctance

Points	State of implementation
<b>1. Ceasefire</b>	Not implemented
<b>2. Withdrawal of all heavy weapons and establishment of security zone</b>	Partially implemented
<b>3. Monitoring and verification of ceasefire and withdrawal of heavy weapons by the OSCE</b>	Partially implemented
<b>4. Modalities of local elections</b>	Partially implemented
<b>5. Amnesty</b>	Not implemented
<b>6. Exchange of prisoners</b>	Partially implemented
<b>7. Humanitarian assistance</b>	Not implemented
<b>8. Full restoration of socio-economic relations</b>	Partially implemented
<b>9. Handover of control over the Russia-Ukraine border to Kyiv</b>	Not implemented
<b>10. Withdrawal of all foreign armed forces, military equipment, and mercenaries</b>	Not implemented
<b>11. Constitutional reform including decentralisation</b>	Partially implemented
<b>12. Holding elections in accordance with OCSE standards and monitored by ODHIR</b>	Not implemented
<b>13. Trilateral working groups</b>	Implemented, but with limited results

# Ukraine's indisposition

Points	State of implementation
1. Ceasefire	Not implemented
2. Withdrawal of all heavy weapons and establishment of security zone	Partially implemented
3. Monitoring and verification of ceasefire and withdrawal of heavy weapons by the OSCE	Partially implemented
<b>4. Modalities of local elections</b>	Partially implemented
<b>5. Amnesty</b>	Not implemented
6. Exchange of prisoners	Partially implemented
7. Humanitarian assistance	Not implemented
8. Full restoration of socio-economic relations	Partially implemented
9. Handover of control over the Russia-Ukraine border to Kyiv	Not implemented
10. Withdrawal of all foreign armed forces, military equipment, and mercenaries	Not implemented
<b>11. Constitutional reform including decentralisation</b>	Partially implemented
<b>12. Holding elections in accordance with OCSE standards and monitored by ODHIR</b>	Not implemented
<b>13. Trilateral working groups</b>	Implemented, but with limited results

# Recommendations

- Keep the sanctions
- Renegotiate the Minsk agreement
- Upgrade of the Normandy format
- Continue supporting Ukraine

# Revised Minsk Agreement

1. Ceasefire

2. Withdrawal of all foreign armed forces, military equipment, and mercenaries and disarmament of all illegal groups

3. Exchange of hostages: “all for all”

4. Up to 1000 OSCE monitors with robust mandate and full assess

5. “Special Status” for “DPR” and “LPR”

6. OSCE Gukovo and Donetsk operations should be extended throughout the border

7. Elections in “DPR” and “LPR” supervised by an OSCE police mission or a UN peacekeeping mission and monitored by ODHIR

8. Amnesty

9. Decentralisation and Constitutional reform (de-link from special status)

10. Handover of control over the Russia-Ukraine border from the Ukrainian side to Kyiv

# Recommendations

- Keep the sanctions (increase or decrease?)
- Renegotiate the Minsk agreement
- Upgrade of the Normandy format
- Continue supporting Ukraine