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## THE MINSK AGREEMENTS OF 2015: A FORCED STEP OR A SMALL ACHIEVEMENT OF THE UKRAINIAN SIDE WITHIN THE DIPLOMATIC CONFRONTATION AROUND THE WAR IN THE DONBAS

### ABSTRACT

The article describes the formats in which the “Ukrainian question” has been discussed in various forums in the last year and defines various reasons why meetings within the format of the “Normandy Quartet” was the most effective. The Ukrainian national interest considered, it analyzes the preferences and shortcomings of the *Package of Measures for the Implementation of the Minsk Agreements* and the *Declaration by the President of the Russian Federation, the President of Ukraine, the President of the French Republic and the Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany in support of the Package of Measures for the Implementation of the Minsk Agreements* adopted on February 12, 2015.

### Key words

“Package of Measures”, “Ukrainian question”, Normandy format, Donbas

At the end of December, 2014, well-known Ukrainian political analyst Volodymyr Fesenko, describing the Minsk Protocol and the Minsk Memorandum, signed on September 2014, noted:

My heart is refusing to accept the Minsk agreements, but rational mind takes over. I realize full well the need of it (Zik, 2014).

It is hard to disagree with this statement which is also absolutely true for evaluating the results of the negotiations in the Belarusian capital in 2015.

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