

DEBATE

Tatiana Kastouéva-Jean, Research Fellow and Director of the Russia/NIS Center of Ifri

I am sorry, I thought we had quarter of an hour, but we have just five minutes, so I will proceed in this manner: we will have a kind of, not blitzkrieg, but a blitz of questions. Three participants, three questions, 30 seconds for one question, 30 seconds for the answer. I am sorry to proceed in this way. I see one question here. Two questions more? Make it very, very shortly please, Mr. Kazatchkine.

Michel Kazatchkine, Special Advisor to the World Health Organization Regional Office for Europe, Senior Fellow at the Global Health Centre of the Graduate Institute for International and Development Studies in Geneva

Yes, a quick question to Madam Rosca: what has happened in Transnistria since February 24? What has changed?

Tatiana Kastouéva-Jean

Thank you. The second question?

Nicolas Véron, Senior Fellow at Bruegel, Senior Fellow at the Peterson Institute for International Economics

It will make life easier. It is also about Transnistria. What is the future of Transnistria? Thank you.

Tatiana Kastouéva-Jean

Okay, two questions on Transnistria. The other question? Just a few minutes. Yes, please, ma'am.

Marie-Roger Biloa, Chief Executive Director of The Africa International Media Group and its branch MRB Productions

I would like to know what the situation in Armenia is. I am sorry, but we had a situation there a couple of weeks ago. What does it look like now? Thanks.

Tatiana Kastouéva-Jean

Sorry, we do not have the Armenian participant here, but maybe if our participants have an idea you can say. We have a little bit less than four minutes. Olga, we will start with you.



Olga Rosca, Chief of staff of the Deputy Prime-Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration of Moldova

Regarding Transnistria, of course Moldova's breakaway region remains a source of instability, a source of insecurity. 1,600 Russian troops are stationed there illegally. The negotiations are currently on hold due to the war, but we do maintain the dialogue just to make sure that all tensions are defused and solutions for the pressing problems of people on both banks of the river are addressed. The situation remains calm, but the risk is there and it is important to remember that. Regarding the future of Transnistria, the way we see the reintegration of the country is that it goes hand in hand with Moldova's EU integration, and as we get closer to the EU, and the proposition of the authorities on the right bank of the Dniester River is becoming more attractive, and as we manage to create greater prosperity that will make us more attractive for some sort of rapprochement and eventual reintegration.

Tatiana Kastouéva-Jean

Thank you, Olga. On Romania, Mr. Darsalia and Mr. Vassilenko, do you have an idea? I know it is not your country. You are the neighbor, Mr. Darsalia.

Lasha Darsalia, First Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Georgia

They are our good neighbors and it would not be correct for me to talk about our neighbors. However, I really want to use my 30 seconds, if it is possible, not to talk about Transnistria, but generally about the occupied territories or the conflicts in different areas of, as you said, the post Soviet space. I think that it was a really good question, if generalizing about the situation, in the sense that we have the significant challenges of the whole of European security, which started much before the Russian invasion of the Ukraine. When this is over, as we all want it to be over in that way, I think we have to address all these problems facing international and European security. I think when asking what the future is, the future is under the general restoration of European security based on the international principles of territorial integrity and human rights, first of all. In the case of Georgia, we have 80% of the population of these territories outside of these territories because they were ethnically cleansed during the terror waves of ethnic cleansing. Restoration of justice, restoration of human rights, first of all, and restoration of territorial integrity: this is the future, or we do not generally have a proper international system.

Tatiana Kastouéva-Jean

Thank you very much, Mr. Darsalia. I think it is perfect timing to finish. Thank you so much, Roman Vassilenko, Olga Rosca and Lasha Darsalia. I hope that we can see you next year, and I hope next year we will speak not about the war but about the peace. Thank you.