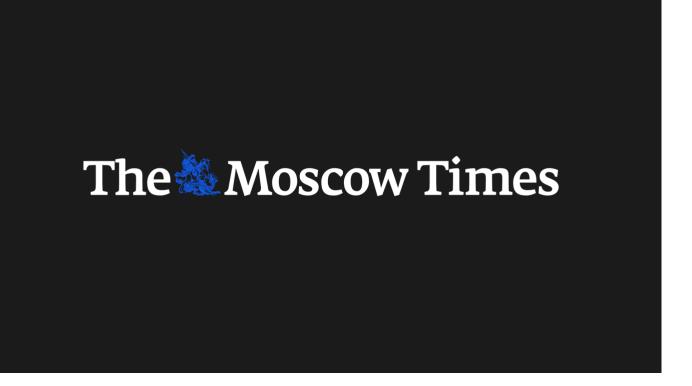


Ukraine's Breakaway Luhansk Republic Declares Ruble Official Currency

February 27, 2017



The self-proclaimed Luhansk People's Republic will adopt the Russian ruble as its official currency on March 1.

The Luhansk government, which currently ■uses rubles unofficially alongside the Ukrainian hryvnia, <u>claimed ■that the change would help</u> to stabilize the breakaway republic's ■volatile economy.

The republic's state bank will make ■daily announcements on the rate of the ruble against the U.S. dollar, ■euro, and hryvnia as part of the deal.

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Russian President Vladimir Putin signed⊠an

<u>executive</u>**x**order

to officially recognize passports issued the Luhansk⊠and Donetsk People's Republics on Saturday.

Russia will also begin to recognize ■education documents, certificates recording births, deaths, ■marriages, and divorces, and automobile registrations.

This decision follows reports earlier ■ this month by the RBC news agency that Russian border authorities ■ were already accepting identification papers unofficially.

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