



PERMANENT DELEGATION
OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA
TO THE OSCE

STATEMENT
by the Republic of Moldova on the up-coming 5+2 talks

As delivered by Ambassador Andrei Popov
to the Permanent Council
Vienna, 3rd of April 2014

Mr. Chairperson,

We would like to thank the delegations for raising the issue of upcoming round of negotiations in the 5+2 format.

We welcome the fact that our international partners are paying an increased attention to the Transnistrian conflict at the highest level. In this regard, we share the assessment on the need to ensure the effectiveness of the 5+2 process and for a comprehensive approach towards the conflict settlement process. In addition to the social-economic aspects of the conflict resolution, it is important to focus the ongoing talks on the core issues such as the political status of the Transnistrian region. We hope that the upcoming round of 5+2 negotiations will help us to achieve progress.

In order to prepare the next 5+2 round, the chief negotiators from Chisinau and Tiraspol held a meeting on 1st of April. They discussed the most pressing issues such as the functioning of Moldova-administered Latin script schools in the Transnistrian region, the problems faced by farmers from Dorotcaia village in getting access to their lands located beyond the administrative line, freedom of movement and some other topics. Regarding Latin-script schools the discussion focused on identifying a solution for returning money, stamp, car and personal items belonging to the administration of the Lucian Blaga lyceum from Tiraspol confiscated by Transnistrian structures on 5th of February. Concerning farm lands the key topic was identifying the mechanism ensuring free access to those lands. The chief-negotiators agreed to continue negotiations at their next meeting scheduled for April 7.

Mr Chairperson,

In the recent days, there is a tendency to speak about an allegedly imposed blockade of the Transnistrian region of Moldova. Our distinguished representative of Ukraine has just provided very convincing arguments based on the data of Ukrainian relevant authorities, which clearly shows that the use of the term blockade can't be applied to the current situation on the ground. From our side, I would add, that according to Moldovan Border Police Department there was no increase in denials of entry of the Russian citizens in Moldova. Furthermore, even trade statistics from Tiraspol show that, since the beginning of this

year, comparing to with the same period of 2013, the exports from the Transnistrian region have increased almost by 50% and imports by 4%. Let me also point to the conclusion of the experts of the EU Border Assistance Mission for Moldova and Ukraine, who stated that they have not witnessed any relevant disruption of movement of people and cargo across the Transnistrian segment of the Moldovan-Ukrainian border.

Therefore, our general conclusion is that existing situation has nothing in common with a blockade – neither in trade nor in people movement. Moreover, Chisinau is taking positive steps in economic sphere. We expect that the Parliament will adopt tomorrow in second reading the amendments to fiscal policy exempting Transnistrian companies from excise taxes on imported goods, ecological taxes and taxes for customs procedures. Then what kind of blockade are we talking about?

Mr Chairperson,

In conclusion I would like to restate the importance for the OSCE Mission to Moldova to have free and unimpeded access throughout the entire territory of the Republic of Moldova, including in the Transnistrian region. We also share assessment for the need for full implementation of the OSCE Mission's mandate regarding ensuring access to ammunitions stockpiles in Colbasna. The OSCE Mission to Moldova can also be involved in inspecting the situation on the border and providing an objective reporting on the findings.

Thank you.