

PC.DEL/761/12
23 July 2012

ENGLISH
Original: RUSSIAN

Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY MR. ANDREY KELIN,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,
AT THE 921st MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

19 July 2012

Regarding the outcomes of the 5+2 negotiations on Transdnistria

Mr. Chairperson,

We consider the latest meeting of the Permanent Conference on Political Issues within the Negotiation Process for a Transdnistrian Settlement (5+2 format) held here in Vienna on 12 and 13 July to have been useful. There was a constructive exchange of views between the Moldovan and Transdnistrian negotiating partners, who took yet another step towards a stable, viable and fair political settlement of the Transdnistrian issue.

I would note in particular that, as a result of the meeting among the representatives of Chisinau and Tiraspol and the mediators from Russia, Ukraine and the OSCE, a statement was signed approving the document on the principles and procedures for conducting the negotiations and the agenda for the official negotiation process agreed on during the April round of official negotiations in the 5+2 format as official documents of the Permanent Conference.

For Russia, as a guarantor of the Transdnistrian settlement and a mediator in the negotiation process, the first principle is strict adherence to the letter and the spirit of the documents drawn up, with no tolerance of broad, or worse, unilateral interpretation.

At the July meeting of the Permanent Conference, there was also discussion on the topical issues of rail and road links between the two banks of the Dniester and on the education situation. The Conference participants made concrete recommendations to Chisinau and Tiraspol on solving the problems in those areas, particularly in relation to the mutual recognition of documents on education and the launch of new rail routes.

The Russian Federation stands ready to continue to provide all possible support for progress in the Transdnistrian settlement. Our position is unchanged. Our consistent starting point has been recognition of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Moldova, respecting the principle of neutrality enshrined in its constitution. It is on this basis that we support the approval of a long-term, mutually acceptable political settlement ensuring the guaranteed special status of Transdnistria within the Moldovan State.

We should like to associate ourselves with the votes of thanks of our colleagues to the Irish Chairmanship for organizing the meeting in the 5+2 format and to thank the Austrian Foreign Ministry for its hospitality.

Thank you for your attention.