

Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY MR. ANDREY KELIN,  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,  
AT THE 993rd MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

3 April 2014

**Regarding the upcoming round of “5+2” negotiations on a  
Transdnistrian settlement**

Mr. Chairperson,

We should like to make a few points in relation to the next meeting in the “5+2” format on a Transdnistrian settlement to be held here in Vienna next week.

The loss of momentum in the negotiation process that has become apparent recently, the stalled progress in promoting confidence-building measures and the tension in the Security Zone cannot fail to arouse concern. Nevertheless, we believe that even the small but specific results achieved in resolving practical questions at the last round of “5+2” negotiations in Vienna and at several meetings between political representatives of Moldova and Transdnistria have confirmed that Chişinău and Tiraspol have the potential to reach mutually acceptable solutions on practical issues. The more quickly these are resolved, the sooner the ground will be laid for restoring trust between Chişinău and Tiraspol and, therefore, for discussing the political status of Transdnistria. We note that the participants in the February meeting in Vienna confirmed the need to refrain from unilateral steps that destabilize the situation in the region and undermine the negotiation process.

The responsibility for achieving mutually acceptable agreements lies, first and foremost, with the parties to the Transdnistrian conflict themselves. We are ready to facilitate this by co-ordinating our actions with all the participants in the “5+2” format, with the aim of advancing the negotiation process. Russia has no hidden plans of any kind with regard to Transdnistria. However, we cannot fail to be alarmed by the escalation of the situation in this region, by the *de facto* blocking by Kyiv and Chişinău of its borders and by the failure of the “5+2” observers to respond appropriately to acts of this kind. This has an adverse effect not only on the atmosphere in Transdnistria, but also on the negotiation process for a Transdnistrian settlement.

The recent steps taken by Chişinău and the current Ukrainian leadership to restrict the freedom of movement of Transdnistrians across the border with Ukraine as well as the normal commercial and economic activity of Transdnistria have led to a *de facto* external blockade of the region. During the last few weeks, the flow of persons crossing the border

with Ukraine has decreased five- to sevenfold. As a result, the socio-economic living conditions of the residents of Transnistria have deteriorated significantly. Moreover, the delivery of goods for the everyday needs of the Russian peacekeepers and military personnel guarding the depots in Colbasna has also been blocked.

Against this background, we agree that it is necessary to intensify the “5+2” negotiations and important to make progress at the meeting in Vienna to be held next week. We trust that the partners will make every effort so that this round of negotiations achieves results and ensures further progress towards a sustainable, just and comprehensive settlement of the Transnistrian problem by ensuring the special status of Transnistria in the single, sovereign and neutral Republic of Moldova.

Thank you for your attention.