

Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY MR. ANDREY KELIN,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,
AT THE 950th MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

2 May 2013

Regarding the situation in the Security Zone of the Transdnestrian conflict

Mr. Chairperson,

Let me offer a few observations regarding the Transdnestrian question. The situation in the Security Zone of the Transdnestrian conflict is now calm. The difficult task of preparing for the “5+2” meeting in Odessa is continuing in Chisinau and Tiraspol.

I wish to emphasize that we see no grounds for unnecessarily exaggerating the events of the early hours of 27 April involving two containers at the Transdnestrian mobile customs checkpoints set up, as we understand it, to prevent, among other things, alcohol smuggling near the city of Bendery.

We note the timely response taken in that connection by the Ukrainian Chairmanship. We share the Chairperson-in-Office’s view regarding the importance of preserving stability in the Security Zone and the need to avoid unilateral steps that jeopardize this stability.

What is no less important is that this localized incident once again demonstrably confirmed the effectiveness of the work of the Joint Control Commission (JCC). It responded promptly to the problem that had arisen. The parties followed without delay the JCC’s orders to resolve the situation. This made it possible within a short space of time to defuse the situation and calm the heated tempers. In this way, the Joint Control Commission once again demonstrated its ability to rectify ill-considered steps taken by any of the parties.

The events in Bendery also confirmed that the mandate of the joint peacekeeping operation to ensure peace and security in the region is today by no means exhausted and continues to work to ensure the necessary conditions for the advancement towards a settlement by peaceful political means in the interests of the people living on both banks of the Dniester.

Mr. Chairperson,

We support the Chairmanship’s efforts to prepare for the next round of official talks in the “5+2” format in Odessa. Chisinau and Tiraspol still have much work to do if they are

to reach specific agreements, in particular as regards freedom of movement, along with work on other socio-economic and humanitarian problems affecting the everyday lives of the population on both banks of the Dniester.

The Russian Federation is ready to continue to provide the parties and the Ukrainian Chairmanship with all the assistance it can in this regard.

Thank you for your attention.