

Courtesy translation

THE DECLARATION
OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND EUROPEAN INTEGRATION
OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA ON THE ISSUE OF PSEUDO-REFERENDUM
ORGANIZED BY THE SEPARATIST TRANSNISTRIAN REGIME

On 17 September 2006, the self-proclaimed Tiraspol regime is planning to hold a so-called referendum on the issue of future relations of the region with Russia and the Republic of Moldova. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration condemns this pseudo-referendum, which violates flagrantly the principle of territorial integrity of the Republic of Moldova. This anti-constitutional action defies the democratic values and standards.

The idea of organizing a referendum as well as the issues raised by it is counterproductive and undermines the efforts undertaken in the context of the settlement process. The manner in which the referendum questions have been formulated represents by itself a gross distortion of the situation and aims at manipulating the public opinion in the region.

The presence of a repressive apparatus in the transnistrian region of the Republic of Moldova that hinders any possibility of free expression of opinions, as well as the informational isolation imposed upon the population by the regime eliminate the basic conditions necessary for a democratic plebiscite. All the attempts of the separatist leaders to imitate the respect of democratic principles are nothing else but a staged farce for propaganda purposes. To this end, the Moldovan authorities plead for a genuine democratization of the region along with its demilitarization, which should provide the necessary conditions for the settlement of the conflict.

By its essence, this “referendum” represents a clear expression of the separatism phenomenon. In spite of this, the comments of the MFA of the Russian Federation of 13 September 2006 show that Moscow has adopted a completely different stance than other actors of the negotiation process. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration underlines the risks involved with granting any support for the separatist movements, which can jeopardize the territorial integrity of any state. Taking into account that a question raised by this pseudo-referendum relates to the Russian Federation, a mediator in the settlement process, the Moldovan authorities, obviously, were expecting Russia to dissociate herself from the policy promoted by the transnistrian regime. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration has to admit that the Russian Federation failed to meet these expectations.

In the same context, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration is grateful to the mediators and observers of the negotiation process – EU, USA, OSCE and Ukraine for their resolute position on the non-recognition of the “referendum”.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration appeals to the international community to condemn firmly this illegal initiative of the separatist regime. The Moldovan authorities reiterate that neither the idea of the “referendum” nor its results can be recognized in any way. The Moldovan authorities will consider as interference in internal affairs any attempts to legitimize the “referendum” by monitoring it or by other actions.

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