



PERMANENT DELEGATION
OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA
TO THE OSCE

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ENGLISH only

STATEMENT

by the Delegation of the Republic of Moldova
at the OSCE Permanent Council meeting on 27 January 2005
(*On the issue of travel regulations to the eastern region of Moldova*)

Mr. Chairman,

I would like to draw the attention of the Permanent Council to the Verbal Notes from 6 January and 10 January 2005 distributed previously by this Delegation, on the modalities of travel to the Moldovan eastern regions by the representatives of the diplomatic community accredited in the Republic of Moldova. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Moldova, making reference to the relevant Articles of Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations of 1961 and Vienna Convention on Consular Relations of 1963, notified the Diplomatic Missions and the representatives of the International Organisations that all visits to the mentioned territory would take place only on the basis of special permits issued by the MFA following preliminary requests.

In the context of deteriorating situation in the Security Zone, the MFA has repeatedly requested on three previous occasions (3 August 2004, 1 September 2004, 1 October 2004) that all diplomatic missions and representations notify the Moldovan authorities on the intended visits to the eastern regions of the country. Regrettably, these requests have been totally ignored by the diplomatic community, thus challenging the legal prerogatives of the host state.

The aggressive behaviour of the Tiraspol administration that continues to violate the regime of the Security Zone and destabilizes the security situation in the region, has determined the Moldovan authorities to reiterate the previous requests and to introduce the above-mentioned measures.

The majority of the diplomatic representations accredited to the Republic of Moldova have shown understanding and acted in conformity with the travel regulations. In the period 11-24 January 2005, the Protocol department of the Foreign Ministry has issued 36 permits for the foreign visitors who travelled to the eastern regions of Moldova.

Against this background, the Moldovan authorities regret the assessment of these legal and justifiable measures contained in the statements on this subject issued by the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation and the Ukraine, as well as those reflected in the Mediators' Declaration of 18 January 2005. The Moldovan

Foreign Ministry calls on the mediators to examine the reasons that prompted the Moldovan side to introduce new procedures and to respect the regulations of the host state on travel within its territory. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Moldova considers counterproductive the initiation of any polemics on the legal aspects of the decision of the Moldovan authorities on travel modalities to the Security Zone and the regions forcefully subordinated by the separatist regime.

It proves even more regrettable that cases of deliberate ignoring of the mentioned provisions continue to occur. On 20 January 2005, the Ambassadors of the Russian Federation and the Ukraine intended to visit Tiraspol without notifying the Moldovan Foreign Ministry. The trip did not materialize as the relevant procedure had not been respected. On 21 January 2005, the Heads of the diplomatic missions of the Russian Federation and the Ukraine were summoned to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Moldova for explanations.

The Moldovan side expresses its appreciation of the level of cooperation displayed by the majority of the diplomatic representations accredited in Moldova on this issue and reiterates its hope that the mediators would act in close cooperation with the central authorities in all aspects of the transnistrian conflict settlement, manifesting respect towards international and internal legislation of the Republic of Moldova.

Thank you.