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**STATEMENT BY MR. ALEXANDER LUKASHEVICH,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,
AT THE 1183rd MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

26 April 2018

**On the agreement on the participation of vehicles from Transdniestria in
international road traffic**

Mr. Chairperson,

We welcome the signing by the political representatives of Moldova and Transdniestria in Bender on 24 April of the protocol decision on the participation of non-commercial vehicles from Transdniestria in international road traffic. This compromise became possible as a result of the painstaking work carried out by the parties, and once again proves that, with the genuine mutual interest of Moldova and Transdniestria, it is possible to find a logical solution to socio-economic problems that are important to the people on both sides of the Dniester.

International mediators played a positive role. The way to overcome the divisions in the relations between Moldova and Transdniestria, paved by the mediators' active co-operation at the Vienna meeting of the Permanent Conference on Political Issues in the Framework of the Negotiation Process for the Transdniestrian Settlement ("5+2" format), fully justifies itself. The mechanism for the apostilization of higher education documents issued in Transdniestria has started working. The Moldovan-administered Latin-script schools are functioning. The Gura Bîcului-Bychok bridge is open to vehicle traffic. We trust that the unresolved issues from the so-called "package of eight" will be fully resolved.

We are confident that the announced "5+2" meeting at the end of May will help to strengthen the positive dynamics in the negotiation process for the Transdniestrian settlement. We are ready to participate in this. We reaffirm our position on the need to ensure the pace of the negotiations at all levels, as enshrined in a number of documents agreed upon at the Permanent Conference.

We consider it important to start work on the mechanism to implement in domestic legislation the agreements in the "5+2" format as soon as possible. Such a mechanism guarantees the irreversibility of the compromises reached and will ensure that the negotiation process keeps moving forward.

In principle, we believe it is the responsibility of the parties to the conflict themselves to search for mutually acceptable agreements. Along with other international mediators, in close co-ordination with the OSCE Chairmanship, we will continue to promote the advancement of the negotiations on the search for a sustainable, just and comprehensive settlement of the Transdniestrian problem.

Thank you for your attention.