



PERMANENT DELEGATION
OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA
TO THE OSCE

STATEMENT
on the recent round of negotiations in the 5+2 format
(Vienna, February 27–28, 2014)

As delivered by Ambassador Andrei Popov
to the Permanent Council
Vienna, 6th of March 2014

Mr. Chairman

We would also like to share briefly our assessment on the recent 5+2 round in Vienna.

First of all we welcome the signing of the “Protocol decision on certain aspects of the freedom of movement” which was negotiated and initialed by the sides at the previous round in Kiev. In this document, participants to the talks welcome decision by the Moldovan Parliament to abolish administrative fines on holders of foreign passports who are permanently residing in the Transnistrian region. But most importantly, through this decision Chisinau and Tiraspol declare their readiness to refrain from creating new obstacles to freedom of movement of people as well as undertake efforts to reduce existing barriers. Sides also agreed to intensify work on other relevant elements such as opening of the Gura-Bîcului/Bychok bridge.

At the round we dedicated a lot of time to the situation of the Latin script schools administered by the Republic of Moldova. Chisinau approach is based on the need to find solutions through negotiations and, in the meantime, to refrain from unilateral actions that are creating more difficulties for the schools. The situation of these schools is not getting better – it is actually getting more tensioned. Schools are under constant pressure from various Transnistrian structures. Such actions create a very unhelpful atmosphere for reaching a compromise solution and should be stopped. Our view on the core of the problem is that Tiraspol is unilaterally changes the framework in which these schools are operating aiming at bringing them under the Transnistrian control or close them down. Radical positions including those on possible closure of the schools after the end of the school year should be excluded from our dialogue. Chisinau remains committed to constructive negotiations. We confirmed the readiness to conduct joint health, fire, and other technical inspections of the schools. Dialogue will be continued at the upcoming meetings of chief-negotiators and Working Group on education. Constant monitoring of the schools by the OSCE Mission and other international partners remains very much needed.

Among other discussed questions I would mention future of economic interaction between two banks of Nistru. We continue to believe that the concept of single economic space could be a useful framework to find systemic solutions for economic problems. Some rational

elements contained in the proposals made by Tiraspol also could be useful. We should focus our talks on getting both banks of Nistru closer to each other in economic terms, rather than trying to cement the existing realities.

Mr Chairman,

I would like to reiterate our call with regard to opening discussion on political and security issues. We believe that progress can be achieved by advancing on all three baskets of the agenda – and this was stipulated in Dublin and Kiev ministerial statements on the 5+2 negotiations. We don't necessarily have to start with the most complex issues, but simply blocking discussions is certainly the wrong way to move the process forward.

Before concluding, we would like to commend the joint Swiss and Serbian Chairmanship of the OSCE as well the OSCE Mission to Moldova for preparing and organizing on a good level the last 5+2 round. We underline once again the importance of providing all necessary support for the activity of the OSCE Mission in Moldova.

Thank you