
Bulgarian Chairmanship**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE PERMANENT COUNCIL
(519th Plenary Meeting)**

1. Date: Thursday, 22 July 2004

Opened: 3.35 p.m.
Closed: 4.50 p.m.

2. Chairperson: Mr. I. Petrov

3. Subjects discussed — Statements — Decisions:

Agenda item 1: THE SITUATION WITH THE MOLDOVAN SCHOOLS IN
THE TRANSDNIESTRIAN REGION OF MOLDOVA.
ADDRESS BY THE MINISTER FOR RE-INTEGRATION OF
THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA, MR. VASILE SOVA.

Chairperson, Minister for Re-integration of the Republic of Moldova,
High Commissioner on National Minorities (HCNM.GAL/3/04 Restr.),
Deputy Head of the Mission to Moldova, Netherlands-European Union (with
the candidate countries Bulgaria, Croatia, Romania and Turkey in alignment)
(PC.DEL/689/04), United States of America (PC.DEL/700/04),
Russian Federation, Norway, Romania, Ukraine, Azerbaijan
(PC.DEL/694/04), Canada, Chairperson (Annex)

4. Next meeting:

Thursday, 29 July 2004, at 10 a.m., in the Neuer Saal



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
Permanent Council**

PC.JOUR/519
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Annex

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519th Plenary Meeting

PC Journal No. 519, Agenda item 1

STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRPERSON

**Closure of Moldovan schools in Latin script in the Transdnestrian region
of the Republic of Moldova**

Today, the 22 July 2004, the OSCE Permanent Council met in a special session to discuss the closure of Moldovan schools in Latin script by the self-proclaimed Transdnestrian authorities. Reports and information were received from Mr. Sova, the Minister for Re-integration of the Republic of Moldova, the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities and the OSCE Mission in Moldova. The decision of the Chairman-in-Office to send his Personal Representative to Moldova, Deputy Minister Draganov, was welcomed. The participating States expressed their extreme concern over the situation created by the arbitrary actions of administration and law enforcement officials in Tiraspol.

During the discussion the Permanent Council has most strongly condemned the irresponsible and provocative actions undertaken against School No. 20 in Tiraspol and School No. 19 in Benderi. The forced closure of one of the schools and the measures undertaken against the other one were accompanied by acts of vandalism and illegitimate use or threat of use of force by law enforcement personnel against children, including orphans, parents and school personnel. These actions, together with the "administrative measures" announced in respect to other schools in this area constitute gross violations of fundamental rights and freedoms of a large part of the population on the left bank of the Dniestr river.

The OSCE participating States voiced their strong support for the activities of the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities. Last year Mr. Rolf Ekeus provided valuable assistance for resolving the problem created by those responsible in Tiraspol, who have arbitrarily denied registration to the schools using Latin script. He has continued to be consistently involved in the matter.

Full support was also expressed in the Permanent Council for the activities of the OSCE Mission in Moldova led by Ambassador Hill. The Mission has been requested to continue to monitor closely the dangerous developments caused by the destabilizing arbitrariness of the local authorities. The OSCE Mission's actions designed to calm the situation and prevent the outbreak of violence were fully endorsed.

Participating States demanded that those responsible in Tiraspol should not take further unilateral measures, to restore the situation existing before the recent events, should return to the negotiating table, and should work out, together with the Moldovan side, an agreement, allowing the Moldovan schools teaching in Latin script in the Transdnestrian region to function freely.

In their statements participating States called on all countries and international organizations which have influence and a role in this part of the OSCE area to take steps to prevent violence, to assist the restoration of stability and to continue the five-sided negotiations on the reunification of Moldova.

Some OSCE participating States called for additional measures to be considered aimed at stopping provocative actions by the Transdnestrian authorities.

Participating States called upon all parties involved to show restraint, to resolve the situation calmly and without violence and to refrain from any action which might deepen existing differences and hinder substantive negotiations.