



**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, Vienna, 16 September 2004
(situation in the Transnistrian region of Moldova)

Mr. Chairman,

My Delegation will not stop seizing the Permanent Council on the problem of the Moldovan schools in the eastern region of the country until we see at least a slight improvement of the situation which, regrettably, does not seem to be the case.

I thank all participating states that likewise continue to raise this issue and invite those Delegations that consider the school problem solved, to consult the relevant Reports of the OSCE Mission in Moldova that chronologically and fairly depict the deplorable situation with all six schools concerned. I would like to draw the attention of the Permanent Council to the appeal for help addressed to the mediators states, the OSCE and the Council of Europe issued by all Moldovan schools headmaster that was distributed today among the OSCE participating states.

Let me welcome the Chair's commitment to continue its efforts that was expressed including during the recent visit of the CIO's Special Representative, Mr. Petar Stoyanov, to the Republic of Moldova. An open dialogue with the Moldovan officials took place during this visit, while the separatist leader Smirnov refused to meet the Chair's Special Envoy. It came as no surprise though, as answers to some difficult questions concerning the Moldovan schools, the crimes at the Moldovan railways and many others are long overdue from the Tiraspol administration. Apparently there are no answers, only the chain of endless provocations in order to make settlement progress impossible.

Mr. Chairman,

This Delegation has already informed the Council on the situation with the assaulted part of the national Moldovan railroad company. The security of all railroad traffic remains under threat and about 3 thousand employees without their jobs.

I need to reiterate also today that control over the eastern border of Moldova is a crucial element of the overall settlement effort. We can continue appealing to the separatist leaders in the hope to be at least heard if not received personally, but it does not prove to be effective. On the contrary, if the Moldovan-Ukrainian border is duly managed with the OSCE and the EU's involvement, we shall see immediate progress. Let me express the position of the Moldovan authorities on this urgent for us subject: without genuine cooperation from the neighboring Ukraine we will waste our time and energy for fruitless appeals destined to those who continue to illegally enrich themselves mocking our common inaction. This genuine cooperation still has to be displayed.

Mr. Chairman,

Last week we put forward some of still relevant elements that might move things forward at the international level. The sooner we start broad international consultations on the overall settlement, on the Presidential Initiative on the Stability and Security Pact for Moldova, the better we could control the pace of events in the region.

Looking for consensus among all involved cannot last forever. Let me express our hope that the Chair would find ways of bringing the agreed and fair line for the settlement process if not for a longer term than at least for the time left until the Sofia Ministerial meeting.

Thank you.

APPEAL OF MOLDOVAN SCHOOL AND LYCEUM HEADMASTERS

The situation of Moldovan-language schools using Latin script in the Transnistrian region of Moldova, as well as the fate of children, parents and the teaching staff give rise to deep concern.

We, who are directly involved in the organization of the education process, we do our best to provide schools with all the necessary stuffs, we control the observance of the education norms and standards, and we preserve the schools and didactic materials. Knowing all these aspects of the education process, we are completely aware of how grave the situation of those 1200 children of the lyceums Evrica in Ribnita and Lucian Blaga in Tiraspol is.

The closure of the Moldovan-language schools by the Tiraspol authorities violates not only the fundamental child's rights, but the rights of their parents too. This is a serious infringement of the law. Besides this, the Transnistrian authorities did not keep their own promises that all the schools will function normally starting 1 September.

Despite all the efforts of the Moldovan government and the international community, the pupils, the headmasters and the teachers of these education institutions cannot start the academic year.

Being deprived of their fundamental rights and freedoms, children, parents and teachers are forced to hold classes in front of the school gates which are closed and surrounded by the Transnistrian militia. The Moldovan-language schools face other serious problems like lack of gas, water, electricity and heating.

We, the headmasters of all the Moldovan schools, condemn these unprecedentedly cruel actions of the Transnistrian region administration against the children, their parents and teachers of the Moldovan-language schools in Transnistria. We require the immediate resumption of the normal activities of the schools.

We call on the guarantor-states in the conflict - the Russian Federation and Ukraine, as well as on the OSCE and the European Council to do their best to ensure the immediate resumption of the education process of the Moldovan-language schools using Latin script in Transnistria and to take all the necessary measures in order to prevent such brutal violations of the child's rights and freedoms.

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