



**PERMANENT DELEGATION  
OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA  
TO THE OSCE**

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ENGLISH only

**STATEMENT**

**On the situation of Russian schools in Moldova**

Delivered at the Permanent Council, 14 July 2011

Mr. Chairperson,

At the Permanent Council meeting from 16<sup>th</sup> June, the Russian Delegation in its response to the report of the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities made several allegations regarding the situation of the Russian schools and language in Moldova.

As a brief starting remark, we would like to highlight that fully acknowledging the importance of the issue of national minorities, the Moldovan authorities are promoting a balanced policy aimed at ensuring full respect of the national minorities rights and offering support in preserving their culture and identity in accordance with commitments undertaken within the international framework. In this respect, Moldova has developed a legal framework which regulates the functioning of languages on the territory of our country, as well as stipulates rights of persons belonging to the national minorities.

The legal framework and namely the Law regarding the functioning of spoken languages on the territory of the Republic of Moldova, foresees the creation of the necessary conditions to guarantee the respect of the right to education in Russian, Gagauz, Ukrainian, Bulgarian and other languages. Pupils and students are provided with the right to choose the language of instruction at any level of education. The Bureau of inter-ethnic relations is the specialized governmental body which is implementing and monitoring policies in this sphere.

Let me also point out that according to the national legislation, the Russian language has the status of language of interethnic communication.

Now allow me turn to the topic of the Russian schools. As of January 1<sup>st</sup> 2011, there are **280 Russian language schools** functioning on the territory of the Republic of Moldova. The information provided by the Russian Federation that during last 2 years 60 Russian schools were closed has no real grounds and could mislead the OSCE community. The truth is that between 2006 – 2011, 70 educational institutions were reorganized or simply merged with others, and only **14** of them were Russian language schools. Pupils are never left without access to education. They are always offered options to continue education on the same language. The decreasing number of schools can be easily explained by the general demographic trend of population reduction. There is no policy behind these numbers.

A few words about teaching the Russian language in schools. In all the Romanian language schools there is an obligatory discipline, called “Russian Language and Literature”. As regarding the Russian language schools we would underline that the number of Russian language and Russian literature hours stays unchanged.

During 2010-2011, new and modernized curricula and methodological guides for the Russian language schools were elaborated. Currently, manuals for the *Russian language*, *Russian Literature* and other disciplines are being re-edited.

As concerns the **Russian language universities**, three of them are functioning in the Republic of Moldova: Taraclia State University, Comrat State University and Slavic University of Republic of Moldova. During the 2010-2011 study year, 16% of all students in the Moldovan Universities were studying in Russian.

It is important to mention that all legislation as well as important official communications is available in the Russian language. Citizens of Moldova has the right to request information from the public authorities in the Russian language as well.

As it can be seen, Mr. Chairman, the legal framework and practices in this regard in Moldova are far the most permissive one in the OSCE area and, thus, the concerns expressed by the Russian delegation are groundless.

Thank you.