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Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY
MR. MAXIM BUYAKEVICH, DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1542nd MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

13 November 2025

In response to the report by the Acting Head of the OSCE Mission to Moldova

Mr. Chairperson,
Ms. Hartmann,

We have taken note of the report presented by you on the activities undertaken during the reporting period by the OSCE Mission to Moldova. We should like to make a few comments on specific points in the text.

The purpose of establishing an OSCE field operation in the Republic of Moldova was and remains to provide every possible assistance in the search for a lasting and comprehensive political settlement of the conflict in Transdnistria. In that connection, we should like to emphasize once again that the “5+2” negotiation format remains the sole mechanism for working out the necessary solutions. The documents adopted over the course of numerous Permanent Conference meetings provide a solid legal basis for interaction between the authorities in Tiraspol and Chişinău. Nevertheless, for a long time now, the work of this mechanism has been blocked due to the counterproductive position of some of its participants. Meetings between the political representatives of Chişinău and Tiraspol have completely ceased.

At the same time, we note the Mission’s efforts to relaunch these negotiation formats. However, a lot of work needs to be done to achieve real practical results in this area. In this regard, we expect the field operation to engage more actively with the new Moldovan Government on these issues. As a first step, conditions must be created for the resumption of direct dialogue between the authorities in Chişinău and Tiraspol. We are counting on the Moldovan leadership to take a constructive approach to amending the law on separatism, which remains an obstacle to holding meetings in the “1+1” format on the right bank of the Dniester.

In addition, we expect the Moldovan authorities to refrain from using economic leverage on the authorities in Tiraspol as a tool for achieving opportunistic unilateral goals in the negotiations. We believe that such an approach does nothing to contribute to the creation of an atmosphere of trust between the two banks of the Dniester.

The report notes positively the election of a new Moldovan Parliament. It is claimed that this will create a “window for reinvigorating the Transdnistrian settlement process”. We regard the Mission’s hopes with caution. We believe that, under the current circumstances, much will also depend on the work of the field operation itself. For its part, the Russian Federation remains ready to assist in efforts to achieve a peaceful settlement.

Given the ongoing stagnation of the “5+2” format and the resulting lack of tangible progress in the negotiations, the relevance of Russia’s peacekeeping presence in the region is only increasing. This presence must be maintained until a sustainable and comprehensive solution to the conflict is found.

As for the future of the ammunition depots in the village of Cobasna, the Russian Federation plans to remove and dispose of their contents when the necessary conditions are in place. We will be ready to think about practical steps in this direction after the conclusion of the conflict in Ukraine, through whose territory the relevant logistical routes pass.

We should like to remind you that, in accordance with the decision on the establishment of the Mission, the effective implementation of international obligations regarding human rights and the protection of the interests of national minorities is one of the key elements of a lasting and comprehensive political settlement of the Transdnistrian conflict.

We have already drawn the Permanent Council’s attention on numerous occasions to the difficult situation in Moldova in this area, particularly in the context of the parliamentary elections held in the country in September of this year. Many of the aforementioned facts have also been communicated in writing by representatives of Transdnistria to the field operation you head. In this context, we expect that the Mission will continue to monitor the human rights situation in the host country very closely, responding in a timely and proportionate manner to violations in this area.

In conclusion, we should like to reiterate the Russian Federation’s position regarding the advisability of continuing the work of the OSCE Mission to Moldova: the possibility of, and parameters for, extending the mandate will depend directly on the progress in accomplishing the tasks at hand. The most important indicator will be the progress made in the resumption of negotiations in the “5+2” format.

In addition, we should like to comment on the developments in selecting the new Head of the OSCE Mission to Moldova. We have received conflicting information from the Secretariat and the Finnish Chairmanship. We are currently trying to get to the bottom of what is really going on. The relevant conclusions will be taken into account when formulating our position on the extension of the field operation’s mandate.

Thank you for your attention.