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**STATEMENT BY
MR. DMITRY POLYANSKIY, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1565th MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

21 May 2026

**In response to the address by the Deputy Prime Minister for Reintegration of the
Republic of Moldova, Mr. Valeriu Chiveri**

Mr. Chairperson,

We have listened with interest to the address by the political representative of the authorities in Chişinău, Deputy Prime Minister Mr. Valeriu Chiveri, outlining the Moldovan side's approaches to the reintegration process as one element of the Transdnestrian settlement. We note with regret that the position presented by the speaker is one-sided and clearly fails to take into account the views of the authorities in Tiraspol on a whole range of issues relating to bilateral co-operation. In that regard, we should like to ask the Swiss Chairmanship-in-Office what it intends to do to inform the Permanent Council of the approaches of the Transdnestrian side as well – as conveyed to Ignazio Cassis during his recent visit to the region.

The Moldovan representative's address was apparently meant to give us the impression that the forced integration of Transdnestria's industrial capacity into the economic system of Moldova is designed to ensure the well-being of the region's inhabitants. However, that is absolutely not the case in reality.

According to data from international organizations and the National Bureau of Statistics of Moldova, the country's economic situation has been steadily deteriorating since Maia Sandu came to power in 2019. For example, gross domestic product (GDP) growth has slowed down – from 4.3 per cent in 2018 to 0.1 per cent in 2024 (unfortunately, the Moldovan authorities have not yet published the figures for last year). The share contributed by the industrial sector is diminishing. Per capita GDP is growing at a very slow pace. Meanwhile, inflation is significantly outpacing income growth – its cumulative rate over the six-year period from 2019 to 2025 stood at approximately 70 to 75 per cent. Unsurprisingly, the purchasing power of Moldova's residents remains one of the lowest in Europe. Against this backdrop, the country's population has shrunk from 2.73 million to 2.38 million (or by almost 13 per cent). The birth rate has fallen below critical thresholds. It is blindingly obvious that all these phenomena are the result of the current Moldovan leadership's destructive policy of severing long-standing trade and economic ties with Moldova's traditional partners, including Russia and other countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

Nevertheless, Moldova has no intention of abandoning this self-destructive course. Instead, the authorities in Chişinău have decided to improve their economic situation at Transdnestria's expense. The

current Moldovan leadership is pursuing an uncompromising policy aimed at the forced “reintegration” of the region, employing every form of political, administrative and fiscal pressure to achieve this. At the same time, many OSCE participating States prefer to turn a blind eye to the fact that this approach runs counter to Moldova’s obligations under the 1992 agreement and its OSCE commitments with regard to granting a special status to Transdniestria and refraining from restrictive measures of an economic nature.

The most telling example of the aggressive policy on the part of the authorities in Chişinău was the law passed by the Moldovan Parliament on 30 April this year abolishing tax breaks for Transdniestrian companies. This attempt to increase the flow of money into the Moldovan State coffers in such a crude way will lead to the *de facto* shutdown of industrial plants located on the left bank of the Dniester, which, in turn, could result in the most serious humanitarian consequences for the region’s inhabitants.

All this is taking place amid the ongoing external economic blockade of Transdniestria by Moldova and Ukraine. The complete closure by Ukraine of the Transdniestrian segment of the border with Moldova, along with Transdniestria’s critical dependence on the delivery of goods from Moldovan territory, renders the residents of the left bank of the Dniester highly vulnerable to the effects of ill-considered decisions by the Moldovan authorities.

In this context, the authorities in Chişinău have adopted a destructive stance at the negotiations within the framework of the bilateral working groups. Requests from the authorities in Tiraspol regarding the development of transport networks and the fight against crime and drug trafficking are being completely ignored. The Moldovan side continues to neglect issues that are of key importance to the people of Transdniestria, such as banking services, co-operation in the area of telecommunications, and vehicle registration.

Instead of searching for mutually acceptable solutions to these issues, the authorities in Chişinău, with the support of their sponsors, are seeking to shift the focus of the Transdniestrian settlement process towards humanitarian and human rights matters. At the same time, the Moldovan authorities simply deny the existing problems on that score in Moldova itself, including the unjustified detention of Transdniestrians, restrictions on their freedom of movement, and so on. This is also clearly evident from the situation regarding the rights of Moldova’s Russian-speaking population, a topic brought up at previous Permanent Council meetings.

Overall, it is fair to speak of the futility of the negotiation efforts at the level of political representatives. When left to deal with the authorities in Tiraspol one-on-one, the authorities in Chişinău demonstrate their utter intractability and unwillingness to take into account the interests of a significant chunk of Moldova’s population. A policy of exerting pressure is being pursued, as opposed to searching for compromises.

In that regard, the importance of resuming the operation of the “5+2” format is demonstrably increasing. It is quite clear that the prolonged hiatus in its work is having a negative impact on the Transdniestrian settlement process. The mechanism in question has proved its relevance and effectiveness over many years of productive work. The documents adopted over the course of numerous Permanent Conference meetings must remain the legal basis for interaction between the authorities in Tiraspol and Chişinău. We call upon the OSCE, including the OSCE Mission to Moldova, to work more actively with all interested parties towards a swift restart of the negotiations in the “5+2” format with a view to hammering out a viable formula for a settlement.

Until then, the current peacekeeping mission, which has proved its effectiveness for more than 30 years, will remain in demand, and the Russian military presence in the region backing up that mission

will continue. These peacekeepers are in Transdniestria in accordance with the 1992 Russian-Moldovan Agreement on the Principles for a Peaceful Settlement of the Armed Conflict in the Dniester Region of the Republic of Moldova and will continue to fulfil their duties until a solution can be found that is acceptable to both banks of the Dniester. We would remind you that this approach is in line with the OSCE decision adopted at the OSCE Ministerial Council meeting in Porto in 2002.

Mr. Chairperson,

In view of the attacks on my country heard in this room in connection with the Decree by Russian President Vladimir Putin promulgated on 15 May this year that grants citizenship of the Russian Federation to residents of Transdniestria, I should like to make the following points.

The process of acquiring Russian citizenship is entirely voluntary. Given the practice of widespread granting of Romanian citizenship to Moldovan residents, the attempts to accuse Russia of “violating the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Moldova” do not seem convincing, to put it mildly.

We wish to draw your attention to the fact that the adoption of this Decree was dictated exclusively by humanitarian considerations, in view of the mounting pressure being exerted on the region by Moldova. We have already spoken today about the negative socio-economic consequences of that destructive policy being pursued by the Moldovan authorities.

We believe that the simplified procedures for acquiring Russian citizenship will help to improve the situation of Transdniestria’s residents and increase the possibilities for protecting their legitimate rights and interests in accordance with the Constitution and laws of the Russian Federation.

Thank you for your attention.