



PERMANENT DELEGATION  
OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA  
TO THE OSCE

PC.DEL/810/13  
11 October 2013

ENGLISH only

**STATEMENT**  
**on the recent round of negotiations in the 5+2 format**  
**held in Bruxelles (3<sup>rd</sup> of October 2013), in response to**  
**the Report on the activities of the Chairperson-in-Office**

As delivered by Ambassador Andrei Popov  
to the Permanent Council  
Vienna, 10<sup>th</sup> of October 2013

Mr. Chairperson,

We would like to thank the Ukrainian Chairmanship for informing the delegations with regard to the recent round of negotiation on Transnistrian settlement in the 5+2 format that took place on 3<sup>rd</sup> of October in Brussels.

The discussions were focused on a number of topics related to freedom of movement, in particular continuing efforts towards opening the Gura Bîcului Bridge. We also touched upon some technical issues such as dismantling of the cable car over the Nistru River between towns of Rîbnița and Rezina and the protection of the Nistru River ecosystem.

One of the key-issues discussed at this round was the mechanism of the monitoring of migration flows, in particular the foreign citizens, entering the Republic of Moldova through the Transnistrian segment of the Moldovan-Ukrainian border. To provide better opportunities to the foreign citizens to register their stay in the country, Chisinau is establishing 6 territorial offices of the Bureau of Migration and Asylum of the Ministry of Interior nearby the administrative line with the Transnistrian region. There were a lot of speculations with regard to this mechanism, mainly based on the assumptions that it will create obstacles to the freedom of movement.

The Moldovan delegation presented detailed information on the objectives and modalities of work of those offices. The key aspect is that the registration procedure does not apply to the residents of the Transnistrian region, including those who are holding foreign passports. Another important element is that the territorial offices of the Bureau of Migration and Asylum will not work as check-points or control posts, but rather will operate as service-providers to the travellers. The foreign citizens will choose freely – to register their stay at the respective territorial office or to do it upon their arrival to the final destination. Therefore, there will be no obstacles created to the freedom of movement of people.

While working out the mechanism of functioning of the territorial offices we took into account the existing arrangements in the Security Zone. No new infrastructure is created and no additional law-enforcement personnel is deployed in the Security Zone. We were asked regarding the activity of the mobile units of the Border Police in the Security Zone. Let me reiterate what our delegation has said at the 5+2 round. The Regulation of the activity of the mobile units contains a special provision that obliges those teams to respect the existing arrangements in the Security Zone. Thus, we don't expect any violations of the regime in the Security Zone.

In parallel the Moldovan authorities are working on further measures that would improve the conditions of movement of the residents of the Transnistrian region through the state border of the Republic of Moldova. Currently, the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova, is examining the amendments to the Contravention Code that would exempt the holders of the foreign passports (mostly of Russia and Ukraine) living in the Transnistrian region from the application of administrative fines envisaged for the foreigners that violated the rules of entry in the Republic of Moldova.

Additionally, let me express our appreciation to the OSCE Chairmanship as well as to the International Peace Institute for the organizing on 4<sup>th</sup> of October a work shop on the Transnistrian conflict settlement process which was hosted by Permanent Mission of Switzerland to EU. This event gathered high-level experts and was opened by H.E. Mr. Miroslav Lajcak, Foreign Minister of Slovak Republic. The discussions were very frank and useful. We consider it as an important contribution towards starting reflection on the political aspects of the Transnistrian conflict resolution. Chisinau is committed to maintain dialogue through all available channels with Tiraspol. We call on international partners involved in the 5+2 talks to work together in order to advance on all three baskets of the negotiation agenda.

Thank you.