



PERMANENT DELEGATION
OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA
TO THE OSCE

PC.DEL/1030/14
5 September 2014

ENGLISH only

STATEMENT
by the Republic of Moldova on
the Transnistrian conflict settlement process
(1015th Permanent Council, September 4, 2014)

Mr. Chairman,

Taking note of the statement made by the Russian Federation with regard to the certain aspects related to the Transnistrian conflict settlement, let me refer upon two main issues raised.

First, on the so-called “economic blockade” of the Transnistrian region. It is not a new issue. Transnistria claims that it is under economic blockade since 2006. Surprisingly enough, over these years, the Transnistrian region has increased the volume and diversified the geographical scope of both its exports and imports. Generally speaking, the foreign economic activity of the Transnistrian region has been showing a positive dynamics with certain exceptions related to global economic crisis when the entire continent was experiencing economic problems. Today, the trade with the right bank Moldova and EU constitutes more than 70% of the Transnistrian export. Under these circumstances, we see no plausible arguments to qualify such a situation as a “blockade”. We also reiterate our full openness to discuss with Tiraspol and find optimal formulas for implementation of the DCFTA requirements in the Transnistrian region. It is an important issue for the future economic development of the region and we are interested to make sure that Transnistrian region maintains access to the benefits of preferential trade with EU. But for this, it should respect key standards and requirements of the EU –Moldova Agreement on DCFTA. In the same framework, we believe that the idea to build a single economic space on both banks of the Nistru river proposed earlier by Chisinau should be further explored as an option aimed at bringing both banks of the Nistru river closer in economic terms.

With regard to the issue of criminal cases it has become a subject of intensive speculations by Tiraspol. This issue is also not a new problem. It has been on the agenda of Chisinau and Tiraspol for the past two decades. More recently, Tiraspol is invoking that the criminal cases are fabricated by Chisinau on political grounds as a means to apply pressure on the administration. This assertion has nothing in common with the reality. Let me remind that in addition to its political aspects and processes the Transnistrian conflict has also a legal dimension. All criminal cases were initiated in accordance with the legislation of Moldova as a result of unlawful actions taken by certain representatives mostly of the Transnistrian security structures. Tiraspol has also opened criminal cases against Moldovan officials and law-enforcement representatives. It is a complex legal issue which cannot be resolved immediately. We would like to point out that during the last two decades not a single representative of the Transnistrian region administration has been arrested or convicted by a Moldovan Court. Some of those persons are regularly passing through the administrative line and are freely moving through the Moldovan border. Therefore, we call on Tiraspol to refrain from artificial dramatizing the issue of criminal cases. This sensitive issue should be discussed within the Working Group on law enforcement cooperation.

Certainly, by no means it can justify postponing the negotiations in the 5+2 format planned for September 11-12. We consider that the announcement made by Tiraspol about its inability to participate the next round next week, despite the confirmation of all other participants, is an attempt to exert pressure on Chisinau. Such an approach, in fact, creates negative impact on the negotiation process and undermines atmosphere of confidence. Sides should not set preconditions for holding a negotiation round. This is one of the basic principles of the agreed Rules and procedures of the 5+2 talks. Regretfully, by its decision to postpone the round, Tiraspol is reducing space for dialogue and channels for communication. It is for the third time during this year when Tiraspol is using clearly artificial pretexts to postpone the 5+2 negotiation round, setting in this way a negative precedent.

Finally, let me reiterate that the Moldovan side is supporting the dialogue through all channels without preconditions, and this position has been reiterated by the Chisinau at the today's meeting of the chief-negotiators held in Tiraspol. We would welcome coordinated actions by the international participants, in particular the delegation that raised the issue today, that would help convening the negotiation round rather than fueling speculations on the so-called reasons to postpone the talks.

Thank you.