



DELEGAȚIA PERMANENTĂ A REPUBLICII MOLDOVA PE LÂNGĂ OSCE
PERMANENT DELEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA TO THE OSCE

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PC.DEL/1095/12
23 November 2012

ENGLISH only

STATEMENT

by Ambassador Valeriu Chiveri, Head of the Permanent Delegation, in response to the Report of the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities
(*OSCE Permanent Council, 22 November 2012*)

Mr Chairperson,

Allow me to join other delegations in warmly welcoming ambassador Knut Vollebaek, the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities to the Permanent Council and thank him for his comprehensive Report. Ambassador Vollebaek has just completed a very productive visit to the Republic of Moldova. In this context, let me touch upon the most relevant aspects of the cooperation between the Moldovan authorities and the Office of the High Commissioner. We have worked on many areas and the assistance of the HCNM has been always valuable for my country.

Social integration of the national minorities is one of our priorities and we value the contribution of the HCNM in developing a comprehensive strategy aimed at advancing this process. In this regard, we would like to confirm our support to the key priority areas for the social integration of the national minorities, identified in cooperation with HCNM Office, which will be at the core of this policy - education, language, media and participation. We welcome the HCNM readiness to support relevant national authorities by providing necessary expertise and look forward to our cooperation in this regard. Let me underline that the Ljubljana Guidelines on Integration of Diverse Society could serve as a useful source and reference point in this process.

Mr. Chairperson,

Let me highlight that the principles of non-discrimination, universality and equality are essential in strengthening the entire human rights protection system in the Republic of Moldova.

Therefore, while implementing the process of optimization of the educational institutions, the national authorities were guided by the objective of assuring a qualitative education system.

In the context, as the question of the Russian language schools in Moldova was touched, let me inform the Permanent Council that during the last year, 53 schools were reorganized or merged with others, and only 5 of them were Russian language schools. Also, 57 schools were closed down and the children were moved to the district institutions, of which 12 were Russian language schools. We feel the need to ensure more transparency in the course of the structural reform of the educational institutions and the Moldovan authorities will pay an increased attention towards this aspect.

Mr. Chairperson,

We take note of the report prepared by the Office of the HCNM and the OSCE Mission to Moldova on the situation of the Moldovan Latin-script schools which are functioning in the Transnistrian region and appreciate the effort to this end. As we have just received the Report, additional time is needed for a careful examination and we intend to come back to this topic in the near future. As this stage, we would like just to mention that reinforced efforts are needed to solve the problem. We also reiterate that the return of the schools from Râbnița, Grigoriopol and Dubăsari to their original buildings is a crucial element for the normal functioning of the Moldovan Latin-script schools. At the same time, additional focus should be given to the activity of Moldovan schools in the Transnistrian region of the Republic of Moldova where education, today in the 21st century, is conducted on the basis of manuals issued in Soviet-times.

Finally, let me express our full support to the HCHM activity and wish him and his able team every success in future endeavors.

Thank you.