



PERMANENT DELEGATION
OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA
TO THE OSCE

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STATEMENT
By the Delegation of the Republic of Moldova
At the OSCE Permanent Council meeting, 7 July 2005
*(On the situation of the Moldovan schools
in the transnistrian region of the Republic of Moldova)*

Mr. Chairman,

Having carefully listened to the statements by the EU and the US Delegations on the given topic, this Delegation would like to declare the following.

The Moldovan authorities are cautiously optimistic about the registration of the 4 Moldovan Latin-script schools in the transnistrian region of the Republic of Moldova. According to the Headmasters of these schools, the prospect of their activity remains rather vague. Of special concern is the precondition to obtain a so-called license from the local authorities in order to resume the educational process. In addition, the building of the Rybnitsa lycee remains destroyed as a result of devastation by the separatist militia last year. The educational authorities of the Republic of Moldova are constantly confronted by the attempts of Tiraspol to intervene unilaterally in changing the educational programmes of the mentioned schools and the contents of the manuals. This last precondition is particularly dangerous, as the creation of two separate educational systems on the territory of the Republic of Moldova should never be tolerated.

Mr. Chairman,

Chisinau has resorted again to unilateral concessions while registering the schools with the unconstitutional authorities and with a lot of preconditions. May I remind you that the draft Protocol on the schools' functioning supported by the mediators after last year's crisis, stipulating unconditional resumption of the educational process, has been bluntly rejected by Tiraspol and has never been signed.

It is our duty to outline all possible difficulties before the start of the school year in September for the sake of parents, schoolchildren and teachers. If they are only cautiously optimistic, we should continue to monitor the situation very closely in order to ensure respect for fundamental right of children to education.

Finally, I would like to thank the Chairmanship, the USA, the EU and all other interested partners for their continuous commitment towards finding a lasting solution to this problem.

Thank you.