

PROTOCOL

on Several Priority Steps to Intensify the Political Settlement of the Pridnestrovian Problem

The Participants of the Odessa Meeting – President of Ukraine Leonid Kuchma, President of the Republic of Moldova Petr Lucinschi, Chairman of the Government of the Russian Federation Viktor Chernomyrdin and Pridnestrovian leader Igor Smirnov having exchanged views on state of affairs related to the process of the Pridnestrovian settlement and progress of implementation of the provisions of the Memorandum on the Bases for Normalization of Relations between the Republic of Moldova and Pridnestrovie from May 8, 1997, and other relevant multilateral agreements, state that the previous period saw certain positive changes in negotiations of the sides.

Agreement on Organizational Bases of Socio-Economic Cooperation is signed. Important specific agreements on the development of ties in trade and economic, customs, financial and other areas are reached. Issue regarding reduction of the level of military confrontation and building confidence in the Security Zone is being considered. Approaches as to defining the mechanism of guarantees for the future status of Pridnestrovie are being optimized.

However, setbacks, delays in working-through of the most topical political questions of the settlement have been traced of late. First of all, the key problem of defining the future status of Pridnestrovie is meant here.

The participants of the Meeting conceive it to be necessary to concentrate attention of the sides at current stage of negotiations on the following priority lines:

- delimitation and mutual delegation of competences and power;
- concrete measures for establishing common economic, social and legal space;
- entrenching mutual trust and cooperation;
- defining mechanism of internal and external guarantees;
- securing effective work of the Joint Control Commission;
- ameliorating forms of activity of the Joint Peacekeeping Forces and the assignment of Ukrainian peacekeepers (presently – observers) to the Security Zone.

The Participants of the meeting will bring under their constant control the accomplishment of measures connected with the realization of this Agreement.

For the Republic of Moldova
(signed)
P. Lucinschi

For Pridnestrovie
(signed)
I. Smirnov

For the Guarantor States

For Ukraine

(signed)

L. Kuchma

For the Russian Federation

(signed)

V. Chernomyrdin

In the presence of the Head of the OSCE Mission

(signed)

City of Odessa

March 20, 1998