

JOINT STATEMENT of Leaders of the Republic of Moldova and Pridnestrovie

April 9, 2001

Chisinau

In the course of the meeting on April 9, 2001, the leaders of the Republic of Moldova and Pridnestrovie discussed the state and process of negotiations and also new political situation in the Republic of Moldova.

Issues connected with resumption of expert work in the framework of existing negotiation mechanism were concerned; dates of the next meeting of expert groups of the Parties were fixed; validity of the previously signed documents was confirmed. The Leaders of the Republic of Moldova and Pridnestrovie agreed to hold monthly meetings.

The Parties reaffirm their intention to consider question of joining the Union of Belarus and Russia, and the possibility for **granting Russian** the status of official **language**.

The Parties agreed to create necessary conditions for real improvement of the economic situation, growth of people's well-being, and according to these targets, to give priority to economic interaction as a line of perspective activity. For these purposes:

- to harmonize tax and customs legislation of the Parties, with regard to Moldova's joining the WTO, and basing on this fact – to abolish customs and tax posts, located at points of entering Pridnestrovie from the Republic of Moldova;
- to implement joint coordinated measures which ensure attraction and protection of foreign investments.

Having discussed the problem of mutual recognition on the territory of the RM and Pridnestrovie of documents issued by competent authorities of the Parties, an agreement was achieved on the necessity to speed up the process of approval of the given list and sign the corresponding Protocol.

Agreement was also reached to foster unimpeded activity of mass media on the territory of Pridnestrovie and the Republic of Moldova, as well as spreading of printed issues and TV and radio programs of the Parties.

The Parties express their commitment to the principles of a peaceful political settlement, mutually agreed decisions and the equality of the Parties in the negotiation process and proceed from the necessity for the soonest elaboration and signing of the final document on a comprehensive settlement of relations between the Republic of Moldova and Pridnestrovie, and also of an agreement on confidence-building measures, mutual and external guarantees.

In the framework of expert cooperation in the negotiation process, the Parties will consider their own projects and developments, as well as recommendations and proposals of the mediators.

The Parties consider that realization of outlined steps meets mutual interests and will facilitate establishment of the atmosphere of mutual understanding and cooperation between the Republic of Moldova and Pridnestrovie.

From the Republic of Moldova
(signed)

V. VORONIN

From Pridnestrovie
(signed)

I. SMIRNOV