PROTOCOL DECISION

on Participation of Vehicles from Pridnestrovie Not Engaged in Commercial Activity

in the International Road Traffic

Pridnestrovie and the Republic of Moldova, hereinafter referred to as the Parties, taking into account the provisions of the Vienna Convention on Road Traffic of November 8, 1968, and with a view to implementing the provisions recorded in the Protocol of the Permanent Meeting on Political Issues in the Framework of the Pridnestrovian Settlement Negotiation Process held in Vienna on November 27-28, 2017, have agreed on the following.

1. The Parties shall closely cooperate with a view to providing the necessary conditions to enable the participation of vehicles from Pridnestrovie not engaged in commercial activities in international road traffic (trade items: 8703 – passenger cars and other motor vehicles designed for the carriage of people (except for motor vehicles of the trade item 8702), including cargo and passenger vehicles – vans and racing cars; 8711 – motorcycles (including mopeds) and bicycles with attached auxiliary engine, with or without a sidecar, a sidecar; 8716 10 – trailers and semi-trailers of the caravan type, for accommodation or for motoring tourists), hereinafter referred to as motor vehicles.
2. Pridnestrovian vehicles can participate in international road traffic provided that they have a vehicle registration certificate, registration plates of the agreed sample, MD sticker attached to a vehicle’s back, issued at the Vehicle Registration Offices (hereinafter – VROs) in the cities of Tiraspol and Rybnitsa.
3. Under this Protocol Decision, registration of vehicles shall be voluntary and performed on a “Single Window” principle which implies the joint provision of the VRO services by the Parties.
4. Movement on roads of the Republic of Moldova of vehicles bearing Pridnestrovian registration plates that are not part of this mechanism shall be unrestricted, in accordance with the previously reached agreements of the negotiation process.
5. The technical description and graphic image of the registration plates and vehicle registration certificates issued by the VROs is an Annex to this Protocol Decision (Annex No. 1) agreed upon by the Parties.
6. The procedure for the VRO formation and interaction between the Parties within the VROs, the list of documents to be submitted by vehicle owners for registration in the VROs, samples of vehicle registration application forms, the range of services provided by the VROs and organizational requirements for the VRO operation are set forth in the attached Technological Plan, which is an integral part of this Protocol Decision (Annex No. 2).
7. The VROs shall have a proportionally equal number of representatives of the competent bodies of the Parties responsible for vehicle registration. Nominal list of authorized representatives of the Parties in the VROs shall be provided and updated by exchange of letters through the Institute of Political Representatives.
8. The vehicle registration mechanism at the VROs shall be available to individuals who are vehicle owners and who possess:

- valid identity cards and permanently reside in Pridnestrovie;

- valid foreign passports of UN member states and who were born and permanently reside in Pridnestrovie, or permanently reside in Pridnestrovie at the time of signing this Protocol Decision.

The legal status of an individual and the fact of permanent residence in Pridnestrovie shall be confirmed by documents, as per Annex No. 2.

Should the circumstances of individuals stated in paragraph 8 of this Protocol Decision change, and/or in case of alienation of vehicles to persons not meeting the criteria specified in paragraphs 8 and 9, vehicles shall be deregistered from the VROs, to be followed by necessary documentary formalities.

1. The vehicle registration mechanism at the VROs shall be available for legal entities that were established before the date of signing this Protocol Decision and who are vehicle owners:

- with a permanent legal address in Pridnestrovie;

- engaged in foreign economic activities;

- not engaged in commercial passenger transportation activities.

The legal status of legal entities shall be confirmed by documents as per Annex No.2.

Each Party shall have the right for a grounded refusal to register a vehicle of a legal entity at the VRO.

Should the circumstances of legal persons stated in paragraph 9 of this Protocol Decision change, and/or in case of alienation of vehicles to persons not meeting the criteria specified in paragraphs 9 and 8, vehicles shall be deregistered from the VROs, to be followed by necessary documentary formalities.

10. Access to the international road traffic shall be given to vehicles registered in accordance with this Protocol Decision and driven by their owners or holders complying with the provisions of paragraph 8.

11. No customs documentation of the Parties shall be required to register vehicles at the VROs that are on the territory of and were registered in Pridnestrovie before the date of signing this Protocol Decision and that were issued Pridnestrovian license plates.

The procedure for interaction between the Parties during the VRO registration of vehicles imported after the entry into force of this Protocol Decision is defined in Annex No. 3.

12. The Parties shall keep their own databases, using existing software and hardware tools, which contain all relevant information about the vehicles registered at the VROs and, if necessary, exchange data. Information about the vehicles registered at the VROs shall be equally available to the competent authorities of the Parties through the special machine-readable bar code on the vehicle registration certificate issued at the VROs.

13. The procedure for interaction between the Parties upon detection of internationally wanted vehicles during their registration at the VROs and transfer to legal owners is defined by a separate agreed Annex, which is an integral part of this Protocol Decision (Annex No. 4).

14. The Republic of Moldova shall officially inform the UN Secretary General of the samples of vehicle registration certificates and registration plates issued in accordance with this Protocol Decision, which shall be valid for use in international road traffic.

The Republic of Moldova shall officially inform the UN Secretary General of the sample Vehicle Technical Test Protocol agreed upon by the Parties in Annex No. 2.

15. After signing this Protocol Decision, the Parties shall initiate the development of a mechanism for the participation in international road traffic of vehicles owned by legal entities not specified in paragraph 9.

16. In the event of a repeated failure to comply with the provisions of this Protocol Decision, including the Annexes, each Party may terminate the provisions of this Protocol Decision by notifying the other Party in writing of its intention to do so within 14 calendar days.

17. The Parties shall ensure the full functionality of the VROs in the cities of Tiraspol and Rybnitsa by September 1, 2018.

18. The Parties shall address the international participants of the negotiation process with a request for material, technical and organizational assistance in the implementation of the present Protocol Decision.

19. The Parties shall take all necessary legal, organizational and technical measures within the period specified in paragraph 17 of this Protocol Decision to enable its implementation.

20. The process of implementing, amending and supplementing this Protocol Decision, and preparing Annexes thereto, shall be carried out by the Parties at the level of Expert (Working) Groups on Transport and Road Infrastructure Development and at the level of the Political Representatives.

21. Should disagreements arise in implementing this Protocol Decision, problematic issues shall be resolved through consultations of Political Representatives and/or Expert (Working) Groups on Transport and Road Infrastructure Development.

Done in the city of Bendery, on April 24, 2018, in the presence of representatives of the mediators and observers in the negotiation process.

 For Pridnestrovie

 *(signed)*

For the Republic of Moldova

 *(signed)*