**Protocol**

**on the Results of the Joint Assessment Visit by Field Experts**

**Conducted at the Vehicle Registration Office in Tiraspol**

***(a combined version drafted by the OSCE Mission)***

October 7, 2020 Tiraspol

On October 7, 2020 representatives of expert (working) groups on road transport and infrastructure from Pridnestrovie and the Republic of Moldova, with the participation of representatives of the Ukrainian and OSCE mediators, paid a working visit to the Vehicle Registration Office (VRO) in Tiraspol to assess operational environment, identify existing problems, define further measures to address the identified challenges and improve the efficiency of these offices.

During the visit, discussions were held with the Tiraspol VRO staff from both sides regarding the VRO activities, appeals, complaints and suggestions received from citizens as to the rational use of the VRO mechanism.

A general inspection of the VRO in Tiraspol has shown that the working conditions created for the VRO staff are quite acceptable:

- 11 workplaces were created for each side to register vehicles and issue neutral license plates, facilities for technical inspection of vehicles were established; there is a dining area.

- following the resumption of the VRO activity since October 1 of this year, and the decision to have 4 employees per side in the Tiraspol VRO, there has been an increase in the number of people wishing to apply for neutral license plates.

For this reason, it is important to regularly review the situation and jointly decide on the need for more employees in both offices, by drafting a corresponding request to the management.

Based on the discussions and responses to the questions, the following proposals and problems were revealed.

**Problems identified by both Sides that need to be addressed at the level of Political Representatives or at the level of working groups on road transport and infrastructure:**

1. The need to combine electronic and live queue of citizens applying to the VROs (including to replace lost, stolen, or damaged documents). Applicants that appear out of schedule are denied services. According to remarks by the Pridnestrovian representatives, it is impossible to replace those who fail to show up or refused for various reasons.
2. The impossibility to re-register vehicles as a result of transfer of ownership on the basis of documents certified by notaries from the left bank of the Dniester River (certificate of legal heir or heir by will, property partition agreement, deed of gift and others)\*.
3. The impossibility to re-register vehicles in case of technical re-equipment (mainly vehicles converted to run on natural gas). The reason is non-recognition in the Republic of Moldova and Pridnestrovie of documents issued by specialized organizations.
4. The impossibility to participate in international road traffic with driving licenses issued in Pridnestrovie. The absence of a mechanism to issue driving licenses of a mutually acceptable form (of a neutral type).[[1]](#footnote-1)
5. The need to expedite the procedure for issuing vehicle registration certificates up to 15 days, involving recalculation of fees.
6. The need to separate the archives of the Republic of Moldova and Pridnestrovie in the VRO in Rybnitsa.

**Problems identified unilaterally by the Moldovan side that need to be addressed at the level of Political Representatives or at the level of working groups on road transport and road infrastructure.**

1. The need to remove records on the issuance of neutral plates and return the Pridnestrovian registration plates (as of now, more than 100 vehicles have been deregistered upon request).
2. The denial of service due to inconsistency of dates of residence visa (some applicants have temporary, others – dual residence visa). \*
3. The refusal to serve applicants due to the expiry of Moldovan identity documents (this problem refers to residents of Pridnestrovie who have both Moldovan citizenship and citizenship of another UN member state. For certain reasons, these citizens did not use Moldovan documents, which resulted in the expiration of their validity. Accordingly, they apply to the VRO to request the RT form as foreign citizens, but are rejected on the grounds that they are Moldovan citizens and must provide valid Moldovan documents).\*

**Problems identified unilaterally by the Pridnestrovian side that need to be addressed at the level of Political Representatives or at the level of working groups on road transport and road infrastructure.**

1. The impossibility to register vehicles older than 10 years imported into Pridnestrovie after April 24, 2018.
2. The impossibility for the citizens without Moldovan citizenship (citizens of the Russian Federation, Ukraine and other countries) to register vehicles imported to Pridnestrovie after April 24, 2018 (the RT form problem).
3. The impossibility to re-register vehicles in case of applicants’ re-registration inside the territory of Pridnestrovie and the absence of records in the Moldovan identity document that confirm this fact (this problem refers to residents of Pridnestrovie who have changed their place of residence since obtaining Moldovan documents. Accordingly, the actual address indicated in the document issued by the Pridnestrovian authorities disagrees with the address indicated in the Moldovan document).
4. The impossibility to choose the license number.
5. Unstable operation of the VROs. Interruptions in operation. Lack of confidence in the long-term nature of the mechanism.
6. In view of the increased use of forged driving licenses of the RM sample, it is proposed to develop a data exchange mechanism at the level of law enforcement agencies of Pridnestrovie and the Republic of Moldova.
1. According to the position of the Moldovan side, this is not a conceptual problem, but rather one of the reasons indicated by the applicants to remove some vehicles from the records on issuing neutral plates and returning Pridnestrovian registration plates. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)