Another joint working meeting of political representatives and experts in the field of car transport took place



20.09.2021, Chisinau – The political representatives in the negotiation process for the Transnistrian settlement and experts in the field of car transport, together with mediators and observers in the 5+2 format met today in the OSCE Mission's office in Tiraspol. This joint working meeting is a follow-up of the discussions of September 16.

The talks focused on the Transnistrian vehicles which intend to participate in international road traffic and the potential measures to be undertaken for their documentation.

During the discussions, Chisinau stressed that the Protocol Decision of April 24, 2018 covers only the vehicles that are not engaged in trade activities and it doesn't include the obligation to extend the established mechanism to other categories of transport as those engaged in commercial activities.

It was highlighted that the issue of the commercial vehicles is a complex one and has to be tackled appropriately, as it is related to the process alignment of customs duties and fiscal payments on both banks of the Nistru as well as to the compliance with fair competition principles. This approach would imply deep and long-term negotiations.

It was noted that the problem of commercial vehicles really exists and it requires exceptional humanitarian decisions intended to solve first the immediate challenges faced by the inhabitants from both banks of the Nistru and afterwards to focus on other current issues on the negotiation agenda.

The Moldovan side reiterated its request to Tiraspol to provide detailed information on the status of the abovementioned transport units. The relevant national authorities will review that information, including via bilateral Moldovan-Ukrainian cooperation channels, and carry out the required assessments to identify viable solutions.

A particular attention was paid to ambulances transporting people in need of emergency aid and their access to national and international road traffic. Tiraspol is also expected to give clarifications on specific details to facilitate the crossing of the Moldovan-Ukrainian border by ambulances.

The subject of driving licenses was also addressed. The Moldovan side reminded about the established simplified procedure for their exchange without additional examinations. About 400 licenses are exchanged monthly, and there are already 38 thousand holders of Moldovan licenses in the Transnistrian region.

In the same vein, experts from both banks discussed issues referring the activity of the Vehicle Registration Offices in Tiraspol and Ribnita, which were found following the joint visit of specialists carried out on October 7, 2020. More detailed consultations will take place by the end of this week and will be attended by the experts of the working groups on development of road transport and road infrastructure.

Chisinau committed full openness to undertake positive efforts to overcome the most pressing and humanitarian issues faced by inhabitants on both banks of the Nistru river.

