Deputy Prime Minister for Reintegration, Olga Cebotari, meets with the Special Representative of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office for the Transnistrian Settlement, Thomas Mayr-Harting



26.01.2021, Chisinau – The meeting between the Deputy Prime Minister for Reintegration and Chisinau's Chief-negotiator in the Transnistrian settlement process, Olga Cebotari, and the OSCE Special Representative for the Transnistrian settlement, Thomas Mayr-Harting, took place today.

The Deputy Prime Minister for Reintegration thanked the senior official for performing this important working visit to the Republic of Moldova, this being a good opportunity for a productive dialogue, presentation and mutual coordination of the planned measures and priorities for 2021.

The Chief-negotiator from Chisinau enounced the key priorities for the current year, as follows:

1. Maintain an active dialog in the existing negotiating platforms.

2. Ensure protection of fundamental human rights and freedoms and restore free movement to/from the Transnistrian region.

3. Implement the agreements under the so-called Berlin Plus Package and solve the most urgent problems of the inhabitants on both banks of the Nistru river.

4. Carry out effective actions on fighting with COVID-19 on both banks of Nistru, including with the assistance of national and international donors.

5. Create premises for convening official rounds of the "5+2" meetings.

The readiness to substantially contribute to the implementation of priorities stated by the Swedish OSCE Chairmanship was emphasized, in particular to support efforts in the process of regulating and adapting confidence building measures to the current context. Achievement of the appeals reflected in the OSCE Ministerial Council Declaration on the “5+2” negotiation process in the Transnistrian settlement of 4 December, 2020, was also mentioned.

In the first weeks of 2021 the working meeting of the political representatives in the negotiation process for the Transnistrian settlement (on 20 January), as well as 3 meetings of the sectoral working groups (Road Transportation and Infrastructure, Customs and Healthcare), were organized. The other expert platforms will soon be relaunched.

The Special Representative was informed about the current situation in the negotiation process, the level of implementation of the protocol decisions under the so-called Berlin Plus Package and the positions of Chisinau in this regard. Respect for human rights and freedom of movement were mentioned as key priorities, while the latter needs to be deconditioned and all barriers installed in the region before and after the pandemic need to be removed.

The Deputy Prime Minister presented Chisinau’s positions on other topics not included under the so-called Berlin Plus Package, specifying the obligation to comply with the national and international legal frameworks requirements. She stated that the focus now is on finalizing the draft protocol decisions that may be formalized during the year, and informed about the launch, starting with 25 January, of the information campaign for the inhabitants of the region about the requirements to participate in the international road traffic.

The Government of the Republic of Moldova provided assurances on maintaining a dynamic and constructive dialogue, on achieving tangible and favorable results that correspond to the interests of the population, on progressing with all baskets of the negotiation process (socio-economic, humanitarian, comprehensive regulation of the Transnistrian file). It also relies on the support of the incumbent Presidency to solve

with common efforts the problems affecting the inhabitants on both banks of Nistru.

