The topic of participation in international road traffic of vehicles from the Transnistrian region was discussed at a meeting with ambassadors and representatives of the diplomatic missions accredited in the Republic of Moldova



31.08.2021, Chisinau – Yesterday, August 30, 2021, the Deputy Prime Minister, Vlad Kulminski together with the Minister of Internal Affairs, Ana Revenco, representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration and other public authorities organized a meeting to discuss the topic of participation of vehicles from the Transnistrian region in international road traffic.

Heads and representatives of diplomatic missions accredited in the Republic of Moldova attended the meeting. They have been informed that, as of September 1, 2021, the mechanism will be implemented according to which access to international road traffic and crossing the Moldovan – Ukrainian state border will be allowed only for vehicles registered according to general provisions of the Republic of Moldova legislation, in compliance with the Protocol Decision of April 24, 2018 and with the requirements stipulated in the Law no. 170/2018 and Government Decision no. 847/2018 and in compliance with the Vienna Convention on Road Traffic of November 8, 1968.

The external partners were also informed that the Moldovan authorities had previously requested from Ukrainian authorities to extend the operation of the existing regime for crossing the Moldovan-Ukrainian state border until January 10, 2022. This was based on an assessment of the situation and awareness about the sensitive elements that could affect the interests of people on the left bank of the Nistru (only 5% of the total number of vehicles from the Transnistrian region were registered with neutral plates), but also on the need to take additional measures in order to minimize potential

vulnerabilities.

The request has been also motivated by the fact that the Protocol Decision of April 24, 2018 provides for the registration mechanism with neutral model plates only for vehicles that do not carry out commercial activities and for those of legal entities registered by the relevant Moldovan authorities. It does not cover operators providing freight and passenger services, many of whom will no longer have access to external road traffic in case of the new regime’s enforcement. Thus, the Government has repeatedly asked the Ukrainian side not to apply these restrictions for the category of vehicles for which the 2018 Protocol Decision did not determine a separate registration mechanism.

Efforts will be intensified in the next period to accelerate the functionality of the registration offices of means of transport in Tiraspol and Ribnita to ensure their activity in full capacity and in compliance with the received requests. An active communication will be ensured via the existing platforms of dialogue related to the Transnistrian issue in order to speed up the settlement of technical aspects of documentation of vehicles from the Transnistrian region, both through the mechanism agreed during negotiations and through provisions of national legislation.

Clarifications were provided to the questions raised on this subject by the diplomatic representatives. Assurances have been given that the Moldovan authorities will take all possible measures to ensure observance of the rights and legitimate interests of residents on both banks of the Nistru and to avoid destabilization and escalation of insecurity.

