Starting with 1 September 2021, only cars with neutral license plates will have access to the international road traffic, alongside the vehicles registered according to the general provisions of the legislation of the Republic of Moldova



According to the provisions of the Protocol Decision "On the participation in the international road traffic of vehicles from the Transnistrian region, which do not perform commercial activity" of 24 April 2018, Law no.170/2018 and Government Decision no.847/2018, and as agreed by the relevant authorities of the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine in the first quarter of 2021, starting with 1 September, access to the international road traffic will be granted only to the means of transport from the Transnistrian region that will have the license plates of the Republic of Moldova and neutral plates, including the "MD" sticker.

We would like to remind that the two Vehicle Registration Points (VRPs) from the Transnistrian region started their activity on 1 September 2018, in accordance with the negotiated agreements that provide access to international road traffic for means of transport from the Transnistrian region with neutral license plates (three letters and three digits), classified under tariff lines no.8703, 8711 and 8716, and under the terms of the 1968 Vienna Convention on Road Traffic, to which the Republic of Moldova is a party.

Those wishing to participate in the international road traffic will continue to benefit from services provided at the two VRPs from Tiraspol and Ribnita. The Public Services Agency informed that starting with 1 June 2021, new service facilities will be applied by issuing the neutral registration certificates in 20 working days for 330 lei, and in 10 working days for 660 lei. Issuance of the provisional registration certificate on the day of the application will cost 80 lei.

In addition to reducing the term for issuing the registration certificate from 30 to 10 working days, other measures have recently been applied, such as: registration of trailers for the relevant categories of vehicles starting with April 1 this year and adjustment of the regulatory framework in force under the provisions of Law no.170/2018 on the exclusion of the age limit for placing under customs import duties of vehicles imported after 24 April 2018 to the Transnistrian region. Other facilities are offering the possibility to choose the combination of numbers and letters from the stock distributed to the VRP, and in case a person wishes to obtain national model plates, these can be selected from the ones assigned to the territorial subdivisions serving the inhabitants on the left bank of Nistru and Bender.

In order to stimulate processes, the Moldovan authorities are constantly applying actions to facilitate the access to services and to inform the citizens about the documents and procedures required for the participation in the international road traffic with vehicles having neutral registration numbers.

Chisinau authorities continuously reiterate the need to supplement the online appointments for the applicants with the live line, which would increase the number of the daily registrations. This proposal is still not supported by Tiraspol.

Given that holders of the neutral license plates and registration certificates can participate in auto-traffic abroad only with recognized international and national driver’s licenses, a simplified mechanism has been implemented for residents of the Transnistrian region, so they can obtain the driving license of the Republic of Moldova without the need to pass additional driving exams. According to data provided by the Public Services Agency, during October 2018 and March 2021, there were exchanged 11,366 licenses and a total of 36 thousand licenses are held by residents of the region.

Likewise, the documentation with identity documents of the citizen of the Republic of Moldova and with civil status documents of national model is performed in a manner facilitated and adapted to the situation in the Transnistrian region. In the case of the latter, the provisions of art.13^1 of Law no.100/2001 and of the Government Decision no.286/2019 are applicable.

