Comment on recent statements made by Tiraspol



Tiraspol's accusations have been sent to the wrong address. The energy crisis faced by the Republic of Moldova, including its Transnistrian region, was not caused by Chisinau, but by the unjustified decisions of the Russian company Gazprom to reduce the volume of natural gas supplied to Moldovagaz. Thus, the Russian side holds the responsibility for the situation created, including the energy and socio-economic crisis in the Transnistrian region. Tiraspol's claims must be addressed to Moscow, which is sacrificing the region by blackmailing the Republic of Moldova with an energy weapon, as it did in 2009.

Over the years, the Chisinau authorities have repeatedly warned the administration in Tiraspol, as well as the Russian side, about the risks created by the energy and economic anomaly on the left bank of the Nistru river, powered by Gazprom's hidden subsidization of the region.

For Gazprom, the only way out of the crisis is to resume the gas deliveries in the quantities provided for in the current contract.

In the mid-term, there is a need for full legalization of economic activities on the left bank of the Nistru river and the application of market economy instruments, including in the energy and public utilities sectors. These measures would make the region immune to external shocks induced by the Russian Federation and would result in Moldova's economic growth and strengthen the country's energy sector. Diversification of the energy sources for our country, including for the Transnistrian region, remains a priority. Awareness and acceptance of this need would help Tiraspol to cooperate effectively with Chisinau to overcome the crisis and prevent future energy crises.

As far as freedom of movement is concerned, Chisinau has always advocated for removing any barriers in this respect on both banks of the Nistru river. Tiraspol's

restrictive measures, including unauthorized checkpoints, are the main obstacle to achieving this goal.

Accusations of obstacles for importers from the Transnistrian region do not correspond to reality either. For the first three quarters of this year, the import of many products into the region is even higher than in the corresponding period of 2021. We also recall that import-export operations of Transnistrian companies are not taxed.

Consequently, we believe that these accusations have only one purpose - to tense the political situation in the country and in the region, to mislead public opinion and external partners, possibly paving the way for a new challenge, which could endanger the fragile stability we have managed to maintain so far.

