

Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe Mission to Moldova



Who we are

The OSCE Mission to Moldova was established in 1993 in order to facilitate the achievement of a comprehensive and sustainable political settlement of the Transdniestrian conflict in all its aspects and on the basis of OSCE principles and commitments.

The 57 OSCE participating States support a lasting and comprehensive settlement that is based on the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Moldova within its internationally recognized

borders with a special status for Transnistria that fully guarantees the human, political, economic and social rights of its population. To this end, the Mission engages in diplomacy – mostly quiet – to

facilitate negotiations and dialogue between Chisinau and Tiraspol.

As part of its conflict prevention and resolution efforts, the Mission gathers information on the situation in the Security Zone. This is in line with its mandate and the 2004 Agreement on the Principles of Co-operation between the Mission and the Joint Control Commission (JCC). The Mission's findings are shared with all the delegations to the JCC and all OSCE participating States, including the host country.

The OSCE operates on the concept of comprehensive security, according to which the respect for human rights

and freedoms is a cornerstone for lasting security. In line with its mandate, the Mission provides advice and expertise regarding the observance of international obligations and commitments in human and minority rights.

The Mission also stands ready to ensure the transparency of the removal and destruction of Russian ammunition and armaments should this process resume, and to coordinate the relevant financial and technical assistance.

The OSCE Mission to Moldova is the only international organization with the presence on both banks of the Dniester/ Nistru River. It has offices in Chisinau, Tiraspol and Bender.



The historic decision to reopen the bridge between Gura-Bicului and Bychok villages in November 2017 symbolises a breakthrough in the Transdniestrian settlement process. It led to the signing by the Sides of five additional agreements in 2017 and 2018.



In keeping with the 2004 Agreement on the Principles of Co-operation between the Mission and the Joint Control Commission, the Mission monitors the situation in the Security Zone.

What we do

The OSCE facilitates the negotiation process for a peaceful, comprehensive and sustainable settlement of the Transdniestrian conflict.

The Transdniestrian settlement process

The Mission mediates between Chisinau and Tiraspol and facilitates negotiations between the two Chief Negotiators and in the 13 thematic Expert Working Groups they oversee. Every year the Mission hosts dozens of meetings, which serve to build trust between the two Sides through joint resolution of social and economic issues.

The Mission also advises the OSCE Chairmanships, who convene official meetings of the Permanent Conference for Political Questions in the Framework of the Negotiating Process on the Transdniestrian Settlement. These meetings are held in the 5+2 format to endorse the agreements drawn up by Chisinau and Tiraspol and establish new objectives to advance the settlement process.

The 5+2 format includes Moldova and Transdniestria as the Sides, the OSCE Mission to Moldova, the Russian Federation, and

Ukraine as co-mediators, and the European Union and the United States as observers. The OSCE Chairmanship consults with the co-mediators before convening meetings in the 5+2 format.

Since the 5+2 meeting in Berlin in 2016, the Sides have agreed to work on eight confidence-building measures, which make up the “Berlin-plus” package.

By jointly identifying and following up on these priority issues, the Sides are bringing people on the two banks of the Dniester/Nistru River closer and improving their day-to-day lives.

This progress is the result of the Sides’ local ownership and leadership. It will serve as a basis for further work towards facilitating a final settlement.

Eight priority issues from the “Berlin-plus” package:

- the reopening of the bridge between Gura-Bicului and Bychok villages;
- the apostilization of Transdniestrian university diplomas;
- the functioning of Moldova-administered Latin-Script schools in Transdniestria;
- the access of Moldovan farmers to their farmlands in the Transdniestria-controlled Dubasari district;
- the participation of vehicles from Transdniestria in international traffic;
- ecology;
- telecommunications;
- criminal cases brought against officials of each Side and the freedom of movement of people, goods and services of each Side.



During the Working Group meetings the experts from both banks develop mechanisms to implement priority issues from the “Berlin-plus” package.

Number of active Expert Working Groups



Number of Expert Working Group meetings



What we do

(continued)

Confidence building and human rights

The Mission, through its Human Rights Programme, supports confidence-building efforts that span both banks of the Dniester/Nistru River. To bring the Sides closer, the Mission organizes capacity-building initiatives for legal and civil society professionals on both banks on human rights issues. These issues are prioritized by the Expert Working Groups as part of the settlement process and include the freedom of movement, obtaining civil status documents, combating human trafficking and domestic violence, and others.

The Mission also supports efforts by the Moldovan Government to promote an inclusive and tolerant society, and protect the rights of national minorities. These are important prerequisites for the comprehensive and lasting settlement.

To this end, the Mission is involved in the implementation of the Action Plan on the Strategy for the Consolidation of Interethnic Relations in the Republic of Moldova for 2017-2027. In the same spirit, the Mission assists the Government in putting into effect the Moldovan action plan on Holocaust remembrance.



Functioning of the eight Latin-Script schools has significantly improved following signing of a relevant agreement by Chisinau and Tiraspol in 2017.

The Mission also supports efforts to fully affirm the 1994 Moldovan law on Gagauzia's special legal status. A fully functional autonomy for Gagauzia will serve as a confidence-building measure for the Transdnistrian

settlement process.

The Mission also organizes training programmes for journalists from both banks of the Dniester/Nistru River to promote accurate reporting on the settlement process.

Facts and figures

(as of May 2019)



Head of Mission:
Dr. Claus Neukirch

Staff:
13 international, 39 local

2019 Budget



€2,302,700 Unified budget

€400,000 Extrabudgetary pledges

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