

Free movement in the Transnistrian region has been extended until 1 July



27.05.2021, *Chisinau* – Following the continued requests of Chisinau and addressing the issues of free movement in all the existing dialogue formats, including within the visit to the Republic of Moldova of the Special Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office for the Transnistrian settlement (24-25 May), Tiraspol extended the current term of ensuring unhindered movement to/from the Nistru's left bank localities and Bender municipality until 1 July.

Similar to the 30 April – 1 June time frame, the obligation to coordinate the entry/exit to/from the region with the local "crisis centers" in advance was excluded, as well as the restrictions applied between 17 March 2020 – 29 April 2021. Observance of the rules on individual protection in public spaces remains in force.

Therewith, the officials and civil servants who intend to undertake private visits to the Transnistrian region can travel freely, without written notifications and the necessity to obtain confirmation of travel to the region. This mechanism was agreed in September 2019, but was suspended by Tiraspol for March 2020 – April 2021 period.

The message on ensuring permanent and unconditional free movement between localities on both banks of Nistru, the elimination of all artificial barriers and of the unauthorized checkpoints, as well as the exclusion of any discriminatory approaches will be further promoted by Chisinau in all the existing negotiations formats on the Transnistrian settlement. Moreover, the commitment to remove impediments to free movement is expressly stated in Article 5, paragraph (1) of the Agreement on the principles of peaceful settlement of the armed conflict in the Transnistrian region of the Republic of Moldova of 21 July 1992, and in the Protocol Decision on certain aspects of the free movement of the population of 27 February 2014.