

# Deputy Prime Minister, Olga Cebotari, met with Peter Michalko, Head of the European Union Delegation to the Republic of Moldova



*25 January 2021, Chisinau* – Evolutions in the Transnistrian file and the negotiation prospects for the Transnistrian settlement in 2021 were discussed today by the Deputy Prime Minister for Reintegration, Olga Cebotari, with the Head of the EU Delegation in Chisinau, Peter Michalko, during their first official meeting.

The Deputy Prime Minister informed the European diplomat about the current situation in the negotiation process, about some aspects of the Chisinau-Tiraspol dialogue and options for solving the existing problems, including on the so-called Berlin Plus Package. She highlighted that restoring free movement, respecting human rights and protecting the health of the population during the pandemic are priorities that will be kept on the agenda.

The efforts to maintain a dynamic interaction in the existing negotiating platforms, the recent 1+1 working meeting, sectoral working groups, focusing on achieving tangible results in all three baskets on the negotiations agenda, boosting the dialogue on all-encompassing regulatory processes, the coordination level of the draft protocol decision on the elimination of Technical Barriers to Trade and the protection of consumer rights were also discussed.

Olga Cebotari stated how important it is to maintain and develop good partnership relations between the Republic of Moldova and the European Union. She also mentioned the successfully implemented projects, the effective involvement of Brussels in promoting confidence building measures between the inhabitants of the two banks of Nistru, and the active role in supporting the Transnistrian conflict settlement and achieving the Government's goal to reintegrate the country.

The Deputy Prime Minister expressed her gratitude for the consistent support provided to the citizens of the Republic of Moldova, including from the eastern districts of the country, in fighting, treating and recovering from Covid-19, for the donation offered and for covering the temporary accommodation expenses on the right bank of the medical staff domiciled in the Transnistrian region.

The EU Ambassador, at his turn, spoke about the continued support of Moldova's efforts to identify a sustainable solution to the Transnistrian file, while respecting the country's sovereignty and territorial integrity. He also reiterated the support on strengthening the country's reintegration policies, the role and impact of implemented confidence building programs through assistance projects, and the need to deepen cooperation with the EU Border Assistance Mission on supporting the Moldovan and Ukrainian authorities in implementation of integrated border management.

The officials agreed that they will maintain and develop a prodigious collaboration on various topics of mutual interest and will continue to implement initiatives able to contribute to sustainable development and the advancement of the regulatory process.

