

Deputy Prime Minister Oleg Serebrian held a dialogue with the acting president of OSCE, Minister of Foreign Affairs of North Macedonia, Bujar Osmani



Deputy Prime Minister for Reintegration Oleg Serebrian had a meeting today with the of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), the Minister of Foreign Affairs of North Macedonia, Bujar Osmani, accompanied by the Special Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office for the Transnistrian settlement process, Thomas Mayr-Harting and the head of the OSCE Mission to the Republic of Moldova, Kelly Keiderling.

Deputy Prime Minister Oleg Serebrian informed about the current situation in the Transnistrian region and in the process of negotiations, the approaches of Chisinau in solving the difficulties faced by the inhabitants on both banks of the Nistru River. Support for the joint priority of Chisinau and the OSCE - maintaining regional and European security and stability - was evoked. The message regarding the impossibility of convening a new meeting in the "5+2" format of negotiations in the context of the military aggression of the Russian Federation on Ukraine was reiterated, while maintaining the dialogue in the interaction formats of political representatives (9 meetings took place in 2022, the next one is planned for February 17, 2023) and of the sectoral working groups (17 working meetings in 2022, 2 in 2023), emphasizing that the objective of the negotiations must be aimed at achieving the desired goal of full reintegration of the country.

It was highlighted that following the Republic of Moldova obtaining the status of a candidate country in the European Union (EU) accession process and the intensification of multisectoral cooperation with EU member states, it is necessary to create a synergy between the European integration process and that of the Transnistrian settlement.

Special attention was paid to the alarming situation regarding the violation of human rights in the Transnistrian region, which continues to deteriorate in the context of the persecutions and abuses of Tiraspol in multiple individual cases, exemplifying with the cases of V. Pleșcanov, C. Arion, as well as expressing the need to stop these violations and restore fundamental rights, including free speech and free movement.

Concerns were expressed on the issue of access to farming land by farmers in the Dubăsari district and the need to eliminate the unilateral conditions imposed by Tiraspol. The fact that Tiraspol misleads external partners on the topic of imports of medicines, food and phytosanitary products was emphasized once again. The Deputy Prime Minister mentioned that these products are delivered to the region in the necessary quantities and in compliance with the import-export rigors prescribed by the national working legislation.

Oleg Serebrian reiterated the firm commitment of the Chisinau authorities to promote the peaceful and political settlement of the Transnistrian conflict, within the parameters of the unitary and fully functional state of the Republic of Moldova. The first step to advance in this direction is the withdrawal from the territory of the country of Russian troops and illegally deployed ammunition/military equipment.

Concerning the amendments made to the Criminal Code of the Republic of Moldova regarding the regulation of the phenomenon of separatism, it was stated that the said provisions have no connection with the negotiation process, which will continue, reminding that such offenses are criminalized in the legislation of many European states as measures to protect and prevent damage to state security, territorial integrity and national sovereignty.

