

## **Press release – Moldovan Prime Minister’s Office – 5 February 2014**

### **Moldovan top officials make statements in beginning of cabinet meeting**

Prime Minister Iurie Leanca in beginning of the cabinet meeting said that **the headmaster of Moldova-run lyceum from Tiraspol had been detained.**

Deputy Prime Minister for Reintegration Eugen Carpov said that, according to operative information, the headmaster of the Tiraspol-based Lucian Blaga lyceum, Ion Iovcev, accompanied by the institution’s accountant, had been detained by representatives of Transnistrian military bodies while returning from Chisinau. They were asked to allow a search of the car, yet they did not agree with this. The detained people were still where they were stopped at the time the cabinet meeting was taking place. The number of persons from the Transnistrian side has increased on the spot. In Chisinau, a delegation to the Joint Control Commission (JCC) convened a meeting and the authorities have already had consultations with international partners. An emergency visit on the spot by JCC military observers was demanded. For this to happen, all participants must give their approval, but they have not done this as yet. Representatives of the Moldovan peacekeeping troops are already on the way to the place where the car was stopped, in order to be present follow all needed procedures, in line with the regulations from the Security Zone.

Prime Minister Iurie Leanca asked the deputy prime minister to take all necessary measures and keep him informed on the matter.

The deputy prime minister for reintegration added that a meeting of the political representatives for Transnistrian conflict settlement was scheduled for 7 January. Unfortunately, the current meeting’s agenda was derailed due to provocations, unilateral and uncoordinated actions of the breakaway Transnistrian authorities, that worsen the situation.

Iurie Leanca also addressed his colleagues on the topic of the so-called consultative referendum in the **Autonomous Territorial Unit of Gagauzia (Gagauz Yeri) on 2 February.**

He also said that he was “absolutely convinced that those who live in the Leova district want hospitals and schools, just as all Moldovan citizens want, and the Gagauz citizens want as well.” “I am sure, and those from the Ungheni district also want to have projects in the district’s settlements, in the villages where they live, sewage, high quality water connection projects, exactly as those who live in autonomy want. I am also convinced that those in the

Soroca and Drochia districts want roads, quality infrastructure, built from the national budget's funds, as well as from our European partners' funds," he added.

"On this ground, firstly, I would ask the autonomy leadership not only to blame and ignore these efforts undertaken in the autonomy, but to present the situation objectively, without ignoring, of course, the present challenges and problems. We will continue to work on the problems from the south, centre and north of Moldova. And I assure you, deputy governor Ianioglo, that tomorrow, when I will be meeting my colleagues, the presidents of the two top banks – the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the European Investment Bank, we will discuss new investments in Moldova, including in the Gagauz autonomy. When I will – or so I expect to - meet Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev in Sochi, we will also tackle the relationship between economic agents of the autonomy and Russia. When I travel with our winemakers to the U.S., in early March, I will insist that the Gagauz winemakers should also be members of this delegation, to see how we together enter an enormous market, - an extremely promising one for our winemakers.

Again, I want to raise the issue of this so-called referendum, and what I heard when I was with Parliament Speaker Igor Corman and our colleagues. Both you, mister governor, and the People's Assembly said: "Why are you afraid of this exercise? We will conduct it, find out the people's opinion and that is all." But I see that ... "this is not all", that other actions are planned, and so on, which, I nevertheless believe, are aimed at destabilising the situation in Moldova.

By the way, I heard suggestions from politicians present today, that it would be better if the autonomy's bashkan (governor) was not a member of the government. I do not think the suggestion is good, on the contrary, I believe that is a position that the bashkan or you should use at the fullest: to ask questions, to discuss issues not just directly related to the autonomy, but just as we discussed here and formulated the mandates for our delegation for the Free Trade Area, Association Agreement.

Let us discuss politics here, and not outside this building and often irresponsibly. So, Mr. Ianioglo, I ask you kindly to convey to the governor, and to your other colleagues, that we want to focus on constructive elements, related to the well-being of our citizens and not to certain actions targeted against the territorial integrity of Moldova. I have a request and I hope it be heard there, and you should convey it exactly, and mind you don't do this in a distorted way," added Prime Minister Iurie Leanca.