



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2009 - 2014

Plenary sitting

4.2.2014

B7-0136/2014

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

with request for inclusion in the agenda for a debate on cases of breaches of human rights, democracy and the rule of law

pursuant to Rule 122 of the Rules of Procedure

on the right to education in the Transnistrian regio
(2014/2552(RSP))

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on behalf of the ALDE Group

B7-0136/2014

**European Parliament resolution on the right to education in the Transnistrian regio
(2014/2552(RSP))**

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its previous resolutions on Moldova and on Transnistria in particular,
- having regard to the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement between the Republic of Moldova and the European Union, which entered into force on 1 July 1998,
- having regard to the Declarations of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation at the 1999 Summit in Istanbul and the 2002 Ministerial Council meeting in Porto,
- having regard to the Action Plan for the Republic of Moldova adopted by the seventh EU-Moldova Cooperation Council meeting on 22 February 2005,
- having regard to the ruling of the Grand Chamber of the European Court of Human Rights of 19 October 2012 on the case of Catan and v 27 Others v. Moldova and Russia (no 43370/04),
- having regard to the Final Statement and Recommendation of the sixteenth meeting of the EU - Moldova Parliamentary Cooperation Committee, on 29th October 2012,
- having regard to the Euronest Parliamentary Assembly Resolution of 28 May 2013 on regional security challenges in Eastern European partner countries,
- having regard to the EU - Moldova Association Agreement initialled on 29th November 2013 Eastern Partnership Summit,
- having regard to the Rule 122 (5) of its Rules of Procedure,

A. Whereas the 1992 war in Transnistrian region of the Republic of Moldova led to the establishment of a separatist, illegitimate and authoritarian regime in the region; the situation of the frozen conflict persists and human rights violations continue to be widespread;

B. Whereas no final solution has yet been found to the Transnistrian conflict despite the international efforts, which leads to the continued deterioration of respect for human rights in the region;

C. Whereas there are violations of human rights in Transnistria continue, particularly regarding the area of education and operation of schools;

D. Whereas negotiations concerning Transnistria, a region of the Republic of Moldova, have been on-going since 1992 in the "5+2" Format in which the Republic of Moldova, the Transnistrian region, the Russian Federation, Ukraine and the OSCE participate and the

European Union and the United States have an observer status; whereas the negotiations resumed again in 2011 and the Working Group on Education has met since then;

E. Whereas the Association Agreement initialled in November 2013 between the EU and Moldova aims at cooperation on education, youth and multilingualism as well in the fields of protection and promotion of the rights of the child, explicitly by focusing on children's wellbeing and the facilitation of their access to education;

F. Whereas according to the OSCE November 2012 report, there are eight Latin-script schools that are able to continue teaching with the help of the Ministry of Education, six of them on Transnistrian controlled territory and two relocated to neighbouring Moldovan-controlled territory on the left bank, resulting in serious daily transportation problems for the students ;

G. Whereas registration and licencing in Transnistria region of the Latin - script schools continue to be critical issues in the negotiations regarding their function;

H. Whereas these schools encounter additional problems regarding the renting of premises, rental contracts and movement of people and goods;

I. Whereas the OSCE Mission in Moldova has been monitoring the functioning of the Moldovan administered schools since the 2004 crisis when Transnistrian authorities took action against eight schools in the region that are operated by central Moldovan authorities and use a Moldovan curriculum; whereas OSCE mediates between central and Transnistrian education authorities to find solutions for outstanding issues and to prevent the emergence of new crises;

J. Whereas the Court of Human Rights has ruled that the Russian Federation violated the right to education in cases of Moldovan schools using Latin in the region of Transnistria in particular Article 2 of Protocol No.1 of the Convention regarding the right of education by the Russian Federation and not by Moldova;

K. Whereas the Working Group on Education which took place in Chisinau on 27 January 2014 did not manage to successfully address the outstanding issues around the Moldovan Latin script schools; whereas an agreement was reached to conduct joint inspection visits to the Moldovan Latin - script schools as well as to hold mutual visits of teachers of the same subjects in order to share experiences;

1. Deplores the lack of respect for human rights in Transnistria, especially in the field of education;
2. Condemns the violation of the fundamental right to freedom of education and the use of pressure and intimidation methods directed towards the teaching institutions in the Transnistrian region;
3. Condemns the politicisation of the education policy area which directly impacts the lives of thousands of students and their families;
4. Regrets that the persistence of these problems has significantly contributed to the

deterioration of the students' enrolment in the Latin-script schools;

5. Strongly criticises the fact that according to OESC data, the Latin-script schools are charged with higher prices for public utilities in Transnistria than other educational institutions and that the ambiguous situation of the premises and rental contracts leaves both the schools and the students in uncertainty;

6. Condemns the increased administrative pressure from the de facto Transnistrian administration, in particular increase of rent prices, end of free-of-charge rental contracts (gymnasiums in Corjova and Roghi) and restrictions for using bank accounts (Lucian Blaga Lyceum in January 2014);

7. Regrets the lack of constructive participation in the negotiations;

8. Welcomes the agreement to conduct joint inspection visits to the Moldovan Latin Script schools in the period of 10-20 March 2013, as well as the vague agreement to hold mutual visits (exchange) of teachers of the same subjects from both banks of Nistru river in order to share experiences.

9. Acknowledges the fact that according to the OSCE Report of 2012 the reported cases of intimidation against parents and students have decreased, although not eliminated.

10. Believes that the prosperity and stability of the Republic of Moldova, in its internationally recognized borders, and of the entire region can be fully achieved only through a peaceful solution to the Transnistrian conflict;

11. Expresses its support for dialogue as the only tool in resolving such sensitive and important matters and providing long-term solutions; Calls therefore both Sides to engage in a mutually constructive dialogue in the framework of the 5+2 negotiations format;

12. Calls on the Commission to advance the signing and provisional application of the Association Agreement and the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area Agreement;

13. Calls for the swift conclusion of the agreement for visa liberalisation with Moldova, which will have a positive impact on all the citizens;

14. Asks OSCE to continue its monitoring and negotiation facilitation activities as well as the defending of the right to education for the students of the Latin-script schools in Transnistria.

15. Calls the High Representative to engage more actively to the 5+2 negotiations in order to approach faster to a comprehensive solution in the region.

16. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Commission, the Council, the governments and parliaments of the Member States, the government and parliament of the Republic of Moldova, the government and parliament of Russia and the Secretary-General of the Council of Europe.