Protocol on the results of the working meeting between Vice-Chairman of the RF Cabinet A.D. Zhukov and President of Transdniestria I.N. Smirnov

On 23 May 2006 in Moscow a working meeting was held between Vice-Chairman of the Cabinet of the Russian Federation A.D. Zhukov and President of Transdniestria I.N. Smirnov.

1. Discussion of cooperation in economic, scientific and technical, and cultural areas exposed understanding of importance of exercising by Transdniestria its right to independently establish and maintain international contacts in economic, scientific-technical and cultural areas laid down in the 8 May 1997 Memorandum on the Bases for Normalization of Relations Between the Republic of Moldova and Transdniestria.
In this context, the Russian side reaffirmed commitment of the Russian Federation as the guarantor-country and the mediator to continue its efforts aimed at lasting and comprehensive normalization of relations between the Republic of Moldova and Transdniestria.

2. Taking into account earlier agreements, in view of further development of traditional mutually beneficial economic ties, as well as building favorable environment for cooperation between business communities, the decision has been taken to:
- continue the commercial and economic cooperation through direct interaction between Russian and Transdniestrian economic agents on the basis of relevant contracts;
- ensure ownership protection for juridical and natural persons;
- promote contacts between constituent entities of the Russian Federation and Transdniestria in all areas of mutual interest;
- promote contacts in industry; energy sector, including power supplies;

agriculture; construction; in transport, connections and telecommunication sector; technical regulations and conformity assessment; in environment protection and other areas.

3. The cooperation shall be carried out by means of:
- production cooperation;
- drawing investments, including those related to energy sector and telecommunications systems;
- involvement of Russian business in the privatization;
- design, construction and modernization of business facilities;
- rendering technical and consulting cervices;
- exchange of specialists and technical personnel, training, and advanced training of cadres;
- data exchange on customs and commercial documents, as well as certificates accompanying cargoes;
- organizing and holding exhibitions and trade fairs;
- consulting on tax, monetary, trade, customs, and tariff policies;
- consulting on legislative harmonization, legal framework improvement in foreign economic sphere and other areas of prime interest for Transdniestria, taking into account the CIS contractual legal framework;
- involvement in cargo and passenger transportation development;
- other forms of cooperation.

4. Adequate measures shall be taken to:
- promote effective development of payment and settlement relations in mutual trade of goods or services;
- encourage in every possible way and develop contacts through the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Russian Federation and other business associations.

5. In humanitarian sphere the sides have decided to:

- strengthen cultural ties, encourage exchanges, including on the regional level, between creative collectives, organizations of men of letters and artists, to host art festivals and exhibitions;
- develop cooperation in educational, scientific, and technical spheres, as well as in training, and developing direct contacts between educational and scientific institutions;
- promote in every possible way cooperation in health care, social protection and basic pension security, as well as youth, sports, and tourist policies.

6. Pending lasting and comprehensive normalization of relations between the Republic of Moldova and Transdniestria, the Russian Federation as the mediator and the guarantor-country in the settlement process, aware of its responsibility for ensuring civil peace, interethnic harmony, maintaining socio-economic stability, observing human rights, and strengthening security in this region of Europe, has reaffirmed its readiness, in case of developments inhibiting Transdniestrian rights laid down in the 8 May 1997 Memorandum on the Bases for Normalization of Relations Between the Republic of Moldova and Transdniestria, to take practical steps to ensure implementation of provisions of the document, use mechanisms of consultations and to take measures needed to reestablish the mechanism of their implementation.

7. Russian federal executive authorities concerned and responsible Transdniestrian authorities shall conclude interagency agreements on cooperation.

Vice-Chairman of the Russian Cabinet	President of Transdniestria
A.D. Zhukov	I.N. Smirnov

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