

# Entrepreneurial activity in the security zone in danger of extinction

Entrepreneurial activity in the security zone is on the verge of extinction, say businessmen working in the area and the jurists of the Promo-LEX Association, which protects their interests, Info-Prim Neo reports.

Recently, the Chisinau Court of Appeals upheld a decision passed by a Chisinau court, whereby it ordered manufactures of entrepreneurs operating in the security zone to be confiscated because they were brought from a clothes factory in Tiraspol without documents of origin, and were to be sold in the municipality of Chisinau. For their part, the entrepreneurs say the goods were made by the patent holders working in Varnita village in the municipality of Bender.

When the goods were being transported to Chisinau, officers of the Bender Police Commissariat that are under the Moldovan Ministry of Interior's administration confiscated the car and its contents, though they were presented receipts for the purchased raw material and documents allowing the holders to manufacture clothes.

The executive director of the Promo-LEX Association Alexandru Postica has told Info-Prim Neo that entrepreneurial activity is very difficult or even impossible in the security zone, due mainly to the internal customs posts, police posts and peacekeeper posts set up over ten years, and to officials' attitude. The barriers to transporting goods make the security zone unattractive for doing business. Local producers and entrepreneurs have to spend many hours crossing the 'border' and taking goods to their destination. Furthermore, public servants have a negative attitude to local entrepreneurs,

considering them smugglers that sell Transnistrian good on the right bank of the Nistru at much higher prices.

Speaking about the confiscation of the goods belonging to the entrepreneurs in Varnita, Postica said that the decisions made violate the right to property of these businessmen, as the Code of Administrative Offenses does not provide for the confiscation of the goods. He also said that this 'support' provided by the constitutional authorities to the entrepreneurs working in the security zone represents an additional obstacle to unifying the society.

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