



**STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR TACAN İLDEM
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF TURKEY**

**In Response to the Address by the Deputy Prime Minister,
Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration
Of The Republic Of Moldova H.E. Natalia Gherman**

(999th Permanent Council, 8 May 2014)

Thank you Mr. Chairman,

At the outset let me also express our heartfelt condolences to the friendly and brotherly people of Afghanistan for the losses of life caused by the recent tragic disaster.

I wish to join the previous speakers in warmly welcoming the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Gherman back to the Permanent Council, this time in her present important capacity.

Madam Minister, thank you for the comprehensive presentation you made. Your presence here today confirms in the most forceful manner your country's will to further strengthen its already solid engagement within the OSCE. We also benefited from listening to your valuable views on the current state of affairs in Moldova, as well as the situation in your region. They are of great significance for peace and security for the entire OSCE area.

I would like to reiterate our continued support to the efforts for a political settlement of the Transnistrian Conflict within the framework of the principles adopted at the 1999 OSCE Istanbul Summit, based on respect for the territorial integrity and sovereignty of the Republic of Moldova.

In line with this understanding, the "5+2" format remains the basic negotiating platform mandated to address the interest and concerns of all parties. On the other hand, we regret the postponement of the 5+2 Talks that had been scheduled for early April.

We hope the process will resume shortly. We expect all sides to refrain from steps with adverse effects.

We call on all parties to build on the important work done thus far and make good progress on core issues. As I have emphasized on previous occasions, such headway will not only be instrumental in consolidating peace and stability in the region, but also help show to the world that effective progress in resolving conflicts can indeed be achieved under the umbrella of this organization.

In terms of my country's bilateral engagement with Moldova, President Timofti's visit to Turkey in December last year provided an excellent opportunity to consolidate our exemplary relations. The declaration which set the target to raise our relationship to the level of strategic partnership was particularly important.

Similarly, the visit by the Speaker of our Parliament to Moldova which begins as we speak will give additional impetus to our bilateral relations. The Free Trade Agreement which we expect to sign in near future will boost our bilateral trade volume. We intend to make best use of the period ahead to further develop our cooperation through joint projects and additional reciprocal visits.

Madam Minister, while concluding my remarks, I would like to thank you once again for your address and wish you every success in your future endeavors.

Thank you.