



Delegation of Ukraine
to the OSCE

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**Statement on the issue of the recent initiatives and developments in the
Transdnistrain settlement process**

As for delivery by Ambassador Volodymyr Yelchenko to the Permanent Council
18 October 2007

Mr. Chairman,

I wish to comment briefly on the statement of my distinguished Moldovan colleague Ambassador Postolachi.

Firstly, Ukraine welcomes recent initiatives of President Voronin relating to common problems in the socio-economic area. We hope they will help to overcome the differences between the sides and to renew the dialogue.

Secondly, we also welcome recent steps taken by the Transdnistrain side to remove the 100% duty on certain goods from the right bank and the so-called "migration tax" for non-residents of Transdnistrainia.

We consider that these mutual constructive steps by Chisinau and Tiraspol are in right direction. They can serve as a good basis to move forward the settlement of the Transdnistrain problem, ensuring the rights and interests of the population on both banks of the Dnister river. This is exactly what Ukraine is seeking for as a mediator in the process.

Thirdly, undoubtedly, the visit of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office to Moldova on 7-8 October has also added significantly to the chances of renewal of negotiations.

Finally, on its part, Ukraine is ready to assist in every possible way in establishing a direct and open dialogue between the two sides and to facilitate a peaceful settlement based on sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Moldova, with a special status for the Transdnistrain region.

The earliest renewal of negotiations in "5+2" format is crucial in this regard.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.