



**PERMANENT DELEGATION  
OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA  
TO THE OSCE**

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**Statement by the Delegation of the Republic of Moldova  
OSCE Permanent Council  
9 September 2004**

Mr. Chairman,

Let me first of all express the disappointment of the Moldovan authorities in relation to the impossibility of convening on 27 August a special meeting of the Permanent Council dedicated to the issue of the Moldovan schools in the Transnistrian region of Moldova, as one Delegation was not able to provide its consensus for approving the mentioned agenda. The events that took place afterwards unfortunately proved that the situation deserved examination and eventual additional measures, and our forum is regarded in Chisinau as the most appropriate one for such discussions.

Nothing has moved into any positive direction since we last discussed the school problem in summer. The school year has not begun for more than 1000 Moldovan pupils from the schools in the Transnistrian region as the official registration of the schools using the Latin script is nothing but a disinformation by the separatist leaders. I could only refer in this context to the Statement by the Minister of Reintegration and the Minister of Education of the Republic of Moldova distributed by us on 1 September 2004, together with the Spot Report of the OSCE Mission in Moldova from 7 September 2004 describing the deplorable situation of the Moldovan schools in Tiraspol, Bender and Ribnita.

Using this opportunity, I would like to reiterate the appreciation of the Moldovan authorities of the activity of the OSCE Mission in Moldova. The HOM and the Mission members are often being intimidated by the paramilitaries while exercising their duties, the recent cases occurred during the attempts by the Mission to distribute food and water to the assaulted children from the Benderi orphanage at the end of August. Our dismay in connection with denial of the access of the Mission members to the TN region “until further notice” was mirrored in the US and the EU Declarations issued respectively on the 18 and the 19 August 2004. The same concerns were voiced during the last mission of the EU Council Secretariat to Moldova.

Mr. Chairman,

We are grateful for the support the OSCE has manifested for the actions undertaken by Moldova aimed at the settlement of the current crisis situation. We appreciate the decision by the EU and the USA to extend the existing visa restrictions against the officials from Tiraspol, as well as the attempts to influence the behaviour of the Transnistrian leadership by means of constructive dialogue.

Let me reiterate that the measures introduced by the Moldovan Government on 30 July 2004 on cancelling privileges for the TN economic agents were aimed exclusively at the legalisation of the TN economy, at liberating it from the corruption and racketeering of the self-proclaimed administration.

The chain of unilateral TN provocations is oriented towards increasing instability in the region. In this regard, I would like to mention the illegal decision of the Tiraspol administration to create its own railroad company and the armed seizure of the rolling stock belonging to the National Railroad Company of Moldova. An uncoordinated traffic of shunting locomotives in the vicinity of Ribnita town has provoked a sharp increase of traffic non-safety of the railroad section near the military depots with Russian ammunition in the Kolbasna village.

Mr. Chairman,

Allow me to refer in the context to what I heard today in some statements as “appeals to both sides for restraint” in the context of the embezzlement of the Moldovan Railroad Company. When Transnistrian armed militia is behaving in a clear pirate-like style and about 3000 Moldovan employees have already lost their jobs, Republic of Moldova is appealing to the international community for help, very often only to hear that it has to exercise restraint to the same degree as the aggressor. Let me invite the authors of the relevant declaration to meditate for a second about this message.

The illegal arrest and imprisonment of a journalist of the Moldovan National TV company while reporting on the occupation of the Bender railway knot, is yet another proof of the determination of Tiraspol to generate an escalation of the situation. The outrageous action of the paramilitaries concerning the brutal arrest of the Moldovan reporter accredited to reflect in the media the events in the Security Zone, contained in the Statements of the Moldovan authorities that were Delegation distributed yesterday. We expect the Office of the OSCE Freedom of the Media Representative to duly react to this unlawful act.

Mr. Chairman,

The leadership of the Republic of Moldova undertakes all efforts it considers necessary in order to diminish the tensions and to avoid escalation, also by involving the mediators and calling on foreign partners to refrain from any activity that could support the Transnistrian regime. In conditions when railroad

safety is precarious and the Moldovan – Ukrainian border is not properly controlled, on 20 August 2004 Chisinau informed the Ukrainian Government that it temporarily suspended cargo crossing through the TN segment of the Moldo-Ukrainian border. The Government of Moldova has resorted to the provision of the 1997 Moldo-Ukrainian Agreement stipulating that cargo crossing could be stopped through the border if there was a threat to the public safety. It was announced that as of 20 August all Ukrainian actions permitting entry/exit of cargo in /from TN would be characterised by the Republic of Moldova as smuggling. Numerous illegal deliveries to the eastern region of Moldova from Ukraine without the appropriate customs clearance on behalf of the Moldovan Customs Department that took place after 20 August, have been reported to the relevant international bodies. These unilateral actions impede the uniform implementation of the WTO and WCO Agreements' provisions on the unified customs space of the Republic of Moldova. Let me draw the attention of the Council upon a set of documents proving the smuggling cases, that this Delegation distributed today.

Under these circumstances, I would like to reiterate the call of the Government of the Republic of Moldova on all OSCE member states and the mediators to abstain from any actions that could support the illegal activities of the Transnistrian regime.

Mr. Chairman,

Let me reaffirm our strong belief that the deployment of an international monitoring mission under the auspices of the OSCE and the EU along the border between the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine will facilitate the timely identification of a more efficient solution for the Transnistrian problem.

The time has come to look at innovative solutions that would move us out of the impasse and put a stop to countless provocations by the TN side. In this context, the Republic of Moldova is ready to start consultations at the expert level on President's Voronin initiative "Stability and Security Pact for the Republic of Moldova", meant to facilitate consolidation of democracy and security not only in Moldova but in the entire region.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, let me thank the US Delegation for the expression of the willingness to examine additional restrictive measures against the Transnistrian leaders and reiterate that economic measures by the entire international community would bring more visible results to the overall settlement of the Transnistrian problem.

Thank you.