



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

PC.DEL/19/10
19 January 2010

ENGLISH only

STATEMENT

at the special OSCE Permanent Council meeting in response
to Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Spain
H.E. Mr. Miguel Angel Moratinos

Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, please, allow me to welcome Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Spain H.E. Mr. Miguel Angel Moratinos at the meeting of the Permanent Council and, on behalf of the Delegation of Moldova, thank him for a comprehensive outline of priorities of the Spanish Presidency of EU and cooperation with the OSCE in this regard. While we fully support the statement delivered on behalf of GUAM, this delegation would like to make a few points in national capacity.

First of all, we appreciate Spain's readiness to ensure continuity of the EU policies with regard to the Eastern Partnership. In this sense, we count on keeping the positive dynamic in the relations between Moldova and EU during the Spanish Presidency.

European integration represents an absolute priority of the Moldovan authorities, which are determined to undertake all necessary efforts to bring Moldova closer to EU. In this sense, it is a great pleasure to inform this distinguished audience that on 12 of January, in Chisinau, we started the negotiations on the Association Agreement between the Republic of Moldova and the European Union. The first round of talks was conducted in a constructive atmosphere and was focused on elements of substance of the EU-Moldova relations. It is necessary to underline that both sides have demonstrated convergence in their approaches towards negotiation.

In the same context, recently, Moldova and the EU started the implementation of the Comprehensive Institutional-building Programme which will strongly contribute to the ability of national institutions to implement the future Association Agreement. In this regard, a team of EU experts paid an evaluation visit to Moldova between 13-15 January.

Turning to another priority of our cooperation, the Republic of Moldova highly appreciates EU's increased contribution to the process of Transnistrian conflict settlement, in particular through participation in the 5+2 negotiation format and providing assistance for the implementation of confidence-building measures between both banks of the Nistru River. We are convinced that the reintegration of the Republic of Moldova, based on full respect of its sovereignty and territorial integrity, will bring security and stability to the EU border.

The trilateral cooperation among Moldova, EU and Ukraine, in concert with OSCE efforts, is a useful tool in promoting an efficient border management and contributes to the settlement of the Transnistrian conflict. We take this opportunity to reiterate our high appreciation for

the work done by EUBAM and consider that its presence in the field should be maintained until the final resolution of the conflict.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, I would like to reiterate three main priorities of the Moldovan government in its relations with the European Union:

- Conducting negotiations on the Association Agreement in a fast-track manner;
- Launching without any delay the dialogue on liberalization of the visa-regime;
- Establishing of a deep and comprehensive free-trade area;

The Moldovan authorities will spare no effort in promoting these priorities.

I thank you.