



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

**Statement
By the Delegation of the Republic of Moldova
At the OSCE Permanent Council meeting
3 November 2005**

Mr. Chairman,

On 27-28 October 2005, the negotiations process on the settlement of the conflict in the eastern regions of the Republic of Moldova, was resumed in Chisinau and Tiraspol, with the participation of the European Union and the United States of America, as observers.

Referring to the results of this round in general terms, the Republic of Moldova could assess them as quite modest. However, several concrete steps for the way ahead were reflected in a Protocol that has been already circulated.

As for the first democratic elections in the transnistrian region, consultations would have to be continued on the objectives and parameters of an International Assessment Mission. In this context, Moldova insisted that democratisation of the transnistrian region, in accordance with the Ukrainian President's Plan and the relevant resolutions of the Moldovan Parliament, should constitute preconditions for preparing democratic and transparent elections in the region. Elections that would be conducted by the transnistrian regime in December this year, do not correspond to any of the acknowledged criteria and would never be recognised.

We regret, that no progress has been achieved on the issue of withdrawal of the Russian troops from Moldova and on the destruction of ammunition. In spite of the eloquent messages from the OSCE, EU, USA and the Republic of Moldova to resume the process, lack of political will to move things forward on this issue was demonstrated by the representatives of the Russian Federation.

As stated by the Head of the Moldovan delegation to the talks, the withdrawal of the Russian troops from the region, together with the dismantlement of the security structures of the transnistrian regime, are important elements of the process of demilitarisation of the region. It is worth mentioning, in particular for

the community of CFE Treaty states, that during the meeting the chief transnistrian negotiator confirmed that the regime possessed 20 tanks.

Mr. Chairman,

Demonstrating its commitment towards ensuring transparency in the sphere of defence, the Republic of Moldova has requested that Chisinau and Tiraspol proceed without delay to the exchange of information on the respective military units and their equipment. This confidence building measure has been advocated by Moldova for the last two years. We hope it would be materialised before the 1 December 2005, as envisaged in the mentioned Protocol of the meeting. Chisinau has also requested that the information provided by both sides would be consequently verified by the independent international experts.

There was no agreement on the parameters of an eventual inspection of the military-industrial enterprises in the transnistrian region. The signed Protocol reflected only the period of inspection activity: from 3 to 12 months, with the possibility of repeated visits to the sites. Moldova has supported from the very beginning the OSCE Mission's proposals for the inspection activity and expressed its hope that these parameters would be acceptable for everybody.

Mr. Chairman,

The situation in the Security Zone and the activity of the Joint Control Commission has constituted an important element of the negotiations. In conditions when the situation in the Security Zone remains tense and risks deteriorating, the transnistrian side has rejected again any proposals for improving it, including those formulated by the OSCE Mission to Moldova in September this year. We are very concerned that even a suggestion to reach a temporary short-term agreement on the functioning of the Security Zone for the sake of people living there, was rejected by the transnistrian side. In our opinion, the discussions on the situation in the Security Zone revealed quite vividly the level of commitment of each participant to finding solutions facilitating the settlement.

Let me conclude by saying that the enlarged format of the negotiations proved to be an important venue for raising all pertinent elements of the settlement process. We thank the European Union and the USA for their active and constructive involvement and express our hope that the new format and the inputs from the new participants would be conducive to a more result-oriented negotiations. The consolidated transparency of the process, might prove to be a mobilising factor for the future talks. The Republic of Moldova is committed to a constructive dialogue that would be continued on 15-16 December 2005.

Thank you.