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

STATEMENT

by the Permanent Delegation of the Republic of Moldova
at the OSCE Permanent Council meeting
(12 June 2008)

Mr. Chairman,

The Permanent Delegation of the Republic of Moldova warmly welcomes General Banfi back to the Permanent Council and thanks him for his interesting and comprehensive report. The Moldovan authorities highly appreciate the overall activity of the EUBAM and the efforts undertaken by the General Banfi in the reported period. This activity fully corresponds with the mandate of the Mission and with the Needs Assessment Report. We continue to witness the deepening of the cooperation between the competent services of the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, strengthening of the mutual confidence and improvement of the professional skills.

The annual and monthly reports issued by the EUBAM reflect objectively the positive developments on the ground, as well as those elements of the border and customs control system that requested legal, institutional or operational expertise from the Mission. Based on the recommendations provided by the Mission, concrete actions have been taken with a view to develop and modernize the Customs Service in line with the advanced practices of the European Union.

We continued to implement consequently the Joint Declaration signed by the Prime-ministers of the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine on 30 of December 2005. This Declaration, together with the favourable legal framework created by the Moldovan authorities, led to a significant increase of the number of enterprises from the Transnistrian region of the Republic of Moldova that were registered by the constitutional authorities. As for today, **431** enterprises from this region are conducting their export-import transactions in accordance with national legislation and benefiting from the Autonomous Trade Preferences granted by the European Union to the Republic of Moldova. The consequent implementation of this mechanism is facilitating legal trade, reduces the level of cross-border crime and, finally, will bring all enterprises from the Transnistrian region into the legal framework of the Republic of Moldova.

There is no doubt, that by strengthening the border control and reducing the risks originating from the region, uncontrolled by the constitutional authorities, the EUBAM brings a significant contribution to the settlement of the Transnistrian conflict.

Mr. Chairman

We would also like to highlight the key-role of the EUBAM in strengthening the risk analysis capabilities of the partner services from both countries, as well as in better monitoring of the current tendencies and border management planning. In this context, we should mention the BOMMOLUK projects, which included the organization of seminars for officers from border control authorities, providing them with modern equipment, and the organization of several joint border control operations. EUBAM played crucial role in the development of the mechanism designed to ensure control over the certificates of origin, in accordance with European standards, as well as in the establishing of information exchange system between the Moldovan and Ukrainian customs services.

We should also underline the progress achieved in the implementation of the trilateral protocols, signed in Bruxelles on the 21 of November 2006. The mechanism that was created with support of the EUBAM, has increased the traffic capacity of the checking points and reduced corruption. These positive results were achieved due to an improved bilateral and multilateral cooperation of the relevant authorities.

We welcome the readiness of the EUBAM to provide technical assistance for the demarcation of the transnistrian segment of the state border between the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine.

Referring to the infrastructure development on the frontier, the Moldovan authorities would like to point out their interest in construction of a border crossing point in Unguri – Bronița and would welcome financial support of the European Commission in this respect.

In conclusion, Mr Chairman, the Moldovan authorities reiterate their readiness to continue a fruitful cooperation with Ukrainian partners and with the EUBAM, and plead for the continuation of the Mission's activity as long as the situation will require its presence. We are fully convinced that the EUBAM will remain a priority for our partners – Ukraine and European Union. Thus, we will demonstrate our joint commitment to regional security, rule of law, and European norms and standards in border management sphere.

We would also like to thank European Commission for its support in promoting dialogue regarding the mentioned above issues and in ensuring security on the Moldovan-Ukrainian border. Finally, let me thank all EU member countries, which are contributing to EUBAM activity, as well as to wish General Banfi and his team every success in their future endeavours.

Thank you.