



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

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STATEMENT
by the Permanent Delegation of the Republic of Moldova
at the OSCE Permanent Council meeting
(18 October 2007)

Mr. Chairman

I would like to inform the Participating States on some relevant developments that have taken place in the process of the transnistrian conflict settlement. I will refer, in particular, to the visit of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office to Moldova, to the mediators and observers meeting held recently in Vienna and several initiatives directed to strengthening confidence and security between both banks of the Nistru River.

The OSCE Chairman in Office paid a working visit to the Republic of Moldova on 7 and 8 of October. His Excellency Miguel Angel Moratinos met with the President of Moldova, Vladimir Voronin, Speaker of the Parliament, Marian Lupu, Prime-minister, Vasile Tarlev, Deputy-Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration, Andrei Stratan. During these meetings, the leadership of the Republic of Moldova expressed its readiness and support for the early and unconditioned resumption of the negotiations in the "5+2" format on the comprehensive and lasting settlement of the transnistrian problem.

The Moldovan authorities have underlined the importance of mediators' and observers' endorsement of the package approach towards transnistrian issue settlement. There was clearly stated that the conflict is artificial, it was generated from outside, and the existing divergences have no ethnic or religious background. It was also reiterated that democratisation and demilitarisation of the transnistrian region are indispensable prerequisites for the final resolution of the conflict.

The Moldovan leadership and Chairman in Office shared the view that the transnistrian problem is not just an internal one, but has also impact on regional security. The resolution of this conflict based on the respect of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Moldova, should be seen as an important element in strengthening the European security.

Mr. Chairman,

The Moldovan authorities welcome the efforts undertaken by our partners – the mediators and observers in the process of conflict settlement, including the convening of meeting in “3+2” format in Vienna, on 11 of October. At the same time, we regret that the partners failed to sign at this meeting a joint invitation to all participants in the “5+2” negotiation process. In this context we reiterate that Moldovan authorities are ready for the resumption of “5+2” negotiations without any preconditions. We support the appeals made by the mediators and observers regarding the necessity of the direct dialogue between Chisinau and Tiraspol on the level of political representatives in the negotiations process. As the goal of this dialogue we see the setting up of joint group of experts that will work on solving the existent problems. We also encourage the further steps by OSCE Chairmanship in this regard.

Mr Chairman,

Recently, the President of the Republic of Moldova has proposed a set of measures directed to confidence and security building between Chişinău and Tiraspol, as well as to solving a number of economic and social problems of the population from both banks of the Nistru river.

In particular, these initiatives envisage:

- the freedom of movement, including, removal of the check-points that were installed in the Security Zone without authorization of the Joint Control Commission, as well as cancellation of the restrictions imposed on the movement of governmental officials;
- elaboration and joint implementation of infrastructure rehabilitation projects, in particular, related to the transportation field,
- solving of some social and humanitarian problems, including those related to the functioning of schools,
- overcoming the consequences of the drought and delivering the foreign humanitarian assistance to the affected population;
- undertaking some actions directed to the phased demilitarisation and disarmament of the parties to the conflict;

In this regard, the Minister of Reintegration of the Republic of Moldova has informed the Tiraspol administration on the content of these initiatives. As I mentioned before, Chisinau proposed the creation of joint expert groups for practical implementation of the respective initiatives. While we appreciate positive reactions that came from our partners, the Moldovan authorities hope that Tiraspol will demonstrate a constructive approach towards these initiatives, thus building up a favourable framework in the settlement of the transnistrian conflict.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.