

STATEMENT

by the Delegation of the Republic of Moldova
(23-24 June 2004, Vienna)

Mr. Chairman

Allow me to start by stating that this Delegation is fully committed to the idea of enhancing capacities of the OSCE to consolidate security across European continent through an effective control and modern management of the borders. We couldn't agree more to what the distinguished key-note speakers just mentioned – cross border crime and other negative phenomena could be combated only by cross border cooperation. An integrated approach is a precondition for success in confronting challenges to the security of the states, as well as in the economic, social and humanitarian spheres. OSCE is fit enough to mobilize the capabilities and resources of its member states for the improvement of the security of their borders in line with the corresponding provisions enshrined in the OSCE Strategy to Address Threats to Security and Stability in the 21st century adopted at the last Ministerial Council in Maastricht.

We also believe that through the elaboration of the OSCE Concept for Border Security and Management this organization should promote a free flow of people and goods and provide us at the same time with appropriate tools for the common response to terrorism, organized crime and all forms of trafficking. The international support to the countries in transition should be considered as an important element in achieving the

measures initiated by the OSCE, while the Concept should offer an adequate frame for the consolidation of mutual cooperation between the states in this field.

Mr. Chairman,

We welcome the willingness of many parties, in particular the EU member states, to share with us the valuable experience in the field of border management, in order to combat effectively such challenges as smuggling, trafficking in drugs, armaments and human beings. In the case of Moldova, the situation of unresolved transnistrian conflict generates these phenomena and therefore threatens stability at the regional and sub-regional level.

It is particularly through the prism of European integration, that the Republic of Moldova addresses the issue of the control of its Eastern border. For us, securing the border between the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, especially its Transnistrian segment, is an important element not only for the comprehensive settlement of the conflict and regional security but also for advancing in the process of European integration of the Republic of Moldova.

The lack of efficient control on the Moldovan-Ukrainian border causes huge losses to the national economy of the country, providing the separatist regime from Tiraspol with the illegal revenues. In terms of settlement efforts, it disorients the activity of the Republic of Moldova and mediators – the OSCE, Russia and Ukraine aimed at identification of a viable solution to the conflict. Therefore, to counteract illicit activities and promote a border control system in accordance with the European standards in this field, the Republic of Moldova has proposed to establish an

international mission of monitoring its eastern border under the auspices of the OSCE and with the EU support. Moldova welcomes the declared readiness of Ukraine, the OSCE and the EU to implement this idea. We stand ready to cooperate with all partners concerned in designing practical modalities of the mission and count on continuous involvement of the EU in terms of expertise and levers necessary to realize this project. Deploying the monitoring mission in a fast and result-oriented manner might constitute a remarkable example of the OSCE-EU cooperation and prove the ability of the OSCE to bring an important input to the settlement of one of the unresolved conflicts in the area of its responsibility.

Thank You.