



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

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10 July 2008

ENGLISH only

STATEMENT

by the Permanent Delegation of the Republic of Moldova
at the OSCE Permanent Council meeting
(10 July 2008)

Mr. Chairman

I was instructed to inform the OSCE Participating States on the following. Between 2nd and 4th July 2008, Mr. Antonio Maria Costa, Undersecretary General of UN and Executive Director of the UN Office for Drugs and Crimes paid a visit to the Republic of Moldova. During his meetings with the Moldovan authorities, the high official decided to visit the penitentiary nr. 29/8 located in the city of Bendery. This prison is under the authority of the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Moldova and is included in the national system of penitentiaries.

Taking into account the fact that the Bendery city is situated in the Security Zone, the Joint Control Commission was requested to issue an urgent authorization to permit the visit of the UN delegation to this prison. The Joint Control Commission, which is a consensus-based mechanism, issued such an authorization and on 3rd of July the UN delegation departed to Bendery.

Regretfully, the Undersecretary General was not able to reach to the penitentiary, because both vehicles with UN delegation were blocked by the Transnistrian security forces not far from the point of destination. As the consequence, the delegation headed by Mr. Costa was forced to come back.

The Moldovan authorities condemn the defiant actions undertaken by the Transnistrian separatist authorities that provoked this incident and humiliated the UN delegation.

We use this opportunity to reiterate that the peacekeeping mechanism is carrying a special responsibility for the incidents that are taking place in the Security Zone as well as for ensuring the freedom of movement of the persons between both banks of the Nistru river.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman