



PERMANENT DELEGATION  
OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA  
TO THE OSCE

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29 July 2005

ENGLISH only

**Statement**  
**On behalf of GUAM**  
**At the OSCE PC meeting**  
**28 July 2005**  
**(in response to the Director of the ODIHR)**

Mr. Chairman,

On behalf of GUAM, I would like to welcome Ambassador Strohal to the Permanent Council and thank him for successful activity and a comprehensive report that is always shared with us in good time for preparation of the discussions.

GUAM countries are actively interacting with the ODIHR in almost all areas mentioned in the report, being satisfied with the results achieved while working together. Since our last discussion, ODIHR experts have visited our countries on numerous occasions, assisting us in fulfillment of the commitments in the human dimension. Training courses, inclusive roundtables, seminars and legislative reviews are important means to strengthen democratic institutions and ensure human rights' protection and promotion.

GUAM commends ODIHR's election observation efforts and considers that this field constitutes an advantage of our Organisation, in comparison to others engaged in the same activity. The election observation missions that were deployed by the ODIHR for the Presidential elections in Ukraine and for the Parliamentary elections in Moldova, performed their job in a fair and constructive manner, the Ukrainian and Moldovan authorities looking forward to continuing cooperation with the ODIHR's experts on the follow-up activities. Work has been already started in Ukraine in order to ensure necessary preparation for the next year's Parliamentary elections. The Government of Azerbaijan has also timely requested the deployment of short and long-term observers for the 6 November 2005 Parliamentary elections.

The ODIHR's focus on the issues of tolerance and non-discrimination is commendable and acquires new magnitude in conditions of emerging threats to public security. GUAM will support ODIHR's intentions to intensify its efforts in preventing racial or religious hatred from dividing communities and counteracting race and faith-based crimes.

Of special relevance for us is the democratization programme on consolidation of democratic institutions, promoting the rule of law and human rights. We commend ODIHR for its work carried out and innovative activities undertaken with the aim of further strengthening the democracy in Georgia. We are looking forward to the OSCE Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting on the Role of Defence Lawyers in Guaranteeing a Fair Trial to be held in Tbilisi, on 3-4 November 2005, and support the sound policy of periodical holding of the OSCE human dimension meetings outside of Warsaw and Vienna. At the same time, GUAM wholeheartedly supports the generous offer of the Georgian Government to host the 2006 HDIM and hopes that the appropriate PC decision will be taken in this regard in the nearest future.

Mr. Chairman,

We cannot but mention again that the population from the areas of unresolved conflicts continues to be deprived of elementary rights and freedoms, and that ODIHR's outreach to these areas is hindered due to the obstruction of the separatist regimes. Let me reiterate using also this opportunity, that the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova at its session on 10 June 2005, adopted a set of resolutions on democratisation and demilitarisation of the Transnistrian region of Moldova, that should serve as a clear basis for the resumption of the settlement negotiations and for eventual elections in the region. The role of the OSCE, and the ODIHR by definition, could hardly be overestimated in this regard.

Mr. Chairman,

Yet another domain of significance for our states, is ODIHR's involvement in the fight against trafficking in human beings. The areas mentioned by Ambassador Strohal in his report, namely identification, protection and assistance to the victims of trafficking, as well as establishing National Referral Mechanisms - are among priority concerns for our states that need to be addressed.

Finally, let me assure the Director of the ODIHR of our commitment to cooperate with the Office and wish the dedicated team represented today by Ambassador Strohal, success in all future endeavours.

Thank you.