



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

**Statement
By the Delegation of the Republic of Moldova
At the OSCE Permanent Council meeting
8 June 2006**

Mr. Chairman,

The Chairman-in-Office, Belgian Foreign Minister K. De Gucht, has paid recently a visit to the Republic of Moldova. He had the opportunity to see in detail the situation on the ground and to promote dialog aiming at a lasting solution to the transnistrian conflict.

The Moldovan Authorities have reiterated, in the meetings with the CiO, their position regarding the indispensable conditions for the conflict resolution taking into account the Ukrainian proposals, as well as the documents adopted by the Moldovan Parliament in the summer of 2005. With this occasion it was underlined that the transnistrian problem could be solved only respecting Moldova's sovereignty and territorial integrity. The democratisation and demilitarisation of the transnistrian region should have priority in our common work to this end. The Moldovan side confirms its readiness to continue negotiations in the "5+2" format.

We welcome the CiO's efforts aimed to resume the negotiations on the basis of respecting the principles of Moldova's sovereignty and territorial integrity and, highly appreciate his appeal on all the participants in the negotiation process to resume without preconditions their participation in the "5+2" talks.

The process of securing Moldovan-Ukrainian border was also discussed. The Moldovan Authorities expressed their satisfaction with the role played by Ukraine and the EU Border Assistance Mission in establishing an effective control on the border, considering that a transparent customs regime and the return of the transnistrian enterprises to the legal framework will contribute to a lasting settlement. In this context, we agree entirely with the CiO's assessment on the importance for the regional security of the customs regime established on the basis of international trade regulations. In this context, we welcome the decision on the enforcement of the EU BAM by opening additional territorial offices.

The issue of the Russian military presence on the territory of the Republic of Moldova was also on agenda of the talks. In this respect, the Moldovan Authorities

reiterated that this military presence has no legal status and contravene to Russian Federation's commitments undertaken at the OSCE Istanbul Summit in 1999. The Moldovan Government reaffirmed unequivocally that Russian forces must be withdrawn completely and unconditionally. We welcome the CiO's position on the OSCE's responsibility in assuring the fulfillment of the Russian Federation's Istanbul commitments regarding the complete withdrawal of its military forces from the territory of the Republic of Moldova.

We appreciate the CiO's position on the issue of transformation of the current "peacekeeping operation" and welcome the dialog initiated on this subject. Our position is well known, - a genuine multinational mission with the relevant international mandate must replace the so-called peacekeeping operation as soon as possible.

Minister De Gucht was duly informed on the necessity of democratisation of the transnistrian region: the development of the political pluralism, the civil society, the freedom of media etc. It was mentioned that in spite of the efforts undertaken by the Moldovan Authorities at the international level in order to resolve the problem of political prisoners in the transnistrian region, the human rights continue to be gravely violated by the separatist regime. The detention in the transnistrian penitentiaries, despite the decision of the European Court for Human Rights, of those two members of the "Ilashcu group", Mr. Tudor Petrov-Popa and Mr. Andrei Ivanțoc, is still of the great concern.

Mr. Chairman,

We would like to refer to the comments made, on 1st of June 2006, by the Foreign Ministry of the Russian Federation on the activities of the Russian peacekeepers in South Osetia and on the territorial integrity of Georgia, as well as to the interview of the Russian Ambassador Valery Nesterushkin on the so-called referendum in the transnistrian region of the Republic of Moldova. We qualify these declarations as counterproductive for the settlement processes of these conflicts. Moreover, these declarations contravene to the international law and to the existing bilateral legal framework. We underline again that such a referendum cannot be recognized under any circumstances. We would like to recall that in the transnistrian region there are no democratic institutions and no conditions for conducting a referendum in conformity with international standards. We appreciate the CiO statement that the results of such a referendum cannot be internationally recognized.

Referring to the situation in the Security Zone, we would like to mention that the transnistrian regime continue the provocations aimed at tensioning the situation. We would like to draw your attention that, on the 31st of May 2006, the Tiraspol regime made a new attempt to use the force in order to hinder the construction of the train platform in the locality of Varnitsa, meant to facilitate the transport of passengers from the region to Moscow.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman