



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

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ENGLISH only

STATEMENT

**By the Delegation of the Republic of Moldova
At the OSCE Permanent Council meeting, Vienna, 16 September 2004**
(in response to the Report of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media)

I would like to join others in welcoming Mr. Miklos Haraszti and thank him for his report.

Let me start replying to the issues concerning my country by mentioning outrightly that the essence of the protests by the journalists from the national broadcaster Teleradio Moldova is purely a labour contract dispute that should not have anything to do with the political implications.

I remind you that according to the relevant resolutions of the Council of Europe, Moldova has transformed its state-owned national broadcaster into a public company. The respective legislation and the transformation itself have been under due scrutiny of the monitoring mechanisms of the Council of Europe. Now that the company is finally public, it decided to reorganise its staffing, including reducing the numbers of personnel in order to survive in the market conditions with maximum efficiency. Similar processes were taking place in practically all spheres of activity with cases of reduced personnel being disputed between the administration of the enterprises and the trade unions. The Government has been suggesting similar ways of overcoming the situation, without any right to intervene directly into affairs of a public company, however, with no effect.

Since labour dispute started to be converted into a political one, on 14 September 2004 the Parliament of Moldova decided to set up a special working group comprising all political parties, in order to deal with the issues related to the implementation of the media law in the country. The group led by a representative of an opposition party began examining the situation to report on the findings to a plenary session of the Parliament.

As for the case of arrest of cameraman Dinu Mija by police in the Transnistrian region of Moldova, let me inform you that following the efforts of the Moldovan

authorities and demands by the international community, he was released on 14 September 2004.

I thank the Office for a prompt reaction in this particular case and would like to reiterate that the situation with the respect for basic human rights and freedoms, including freedom of the media, is something that is abused and distorted in a grotesque way in the eastern region of Moldova. This is where the real and immediate problems are arising every day and this is where the focus of the Office and the whole Organisation should and duly is concentrated.

Along these lines, I would like to reiterate the invitation of the Moldovan authorities addressed to Mr. Haraszti to visit Moldova in order to examine the situation on the ground. Let me also recall the invitation that the Moldovan President Mr. Vladimir Voronin addressed to the OSCE Ambassadors during their trip to Moldova in June 2004, namely to explore the ways of an enhanced cooperation between the OSCE and Moldova on the media issues.

We stand ready to coordinate with the Office any eventual proposals or recommendations that you, Mr. Haraszti, might contemplate in this context, and would welcome in particular the projects on promoting free media on the whole territory of the Republic of Moldova as part of the Transnistrian conflict settlement process.

Thank you.