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STATEMENT

ENGLISH only

by Ambassador Valeriu Chiveri, Head of the Permanent Delegation
(OSCE Permanent Council, 22 November 2012)

Agenda item: Any other business

Mr. Chairperson,

I am pleased to inform the Permanent Council that the 3rd European Forum on Cross-Border Cooperation in a Wider Europe took place yesterday, 21st November, in Chisinau under the auspices of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration of the Republic of Moldova. In this regard, we want to express our gratitude to all partners who have been providing support in organizing this important event, including, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland and the Norwegian Barents Secretariat.

The thematic focus of this year's forum was the project "Cross-border cooperation on EU's Eastern Border - Learning from Finnish and Norwegian Experience", as well as the cooperation between Moldova and Ukraine in the framework of newly launched Euroregion Dniester/Nistru. The event has been attended by policy makers, experts and practitioners and provided a good platform to discuss best practices on cross-border cooperation between the EU and its Eastern Neighbors.

On the margins of the 3rd forum participants have adopted a declaration which contains a series of valuable recommendations on ways to increase the effectiveness of cross-border cooperation. The recently established Nistru Euroregion, including six districts from Moldova and the Vinnitsa Region of Ukraine, has proved to have a big potential and has already produced important achievements by developing many social and economic projects.

A key feature of the Nistru Euroregion is the potential participation of the two districts from the Transnistrian region: Râbnița and Camenca. Participation of districts from the Transnistrian region to the Nistru Euroregion fits perfectly well in the framework of confidence building measures between the two banks of the Nistru River and has the potential to advance the settlement of the Transnistrian conflict.

Dear Mr. Chairperson,

As it is known, cross-border cooperation is a key priority of the European Neighborhood and Partnership Instrument, aiming at reinforcing cooperation between EU member states and its Eastern Neighbors. The Republic of Moldova will continue efforts together with our partners to increase the cross-border cooperation in making this region stable and much more prosperous one.

Thank you.