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***STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR TACAN İLDEM,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF TURKEY***

***IN RESPONSE TO AMBASSADOR JENNIFER BRUSH
HEAD OF THE OSCE MISSION TO MOLDOVA***

948TH PERMANENT COUNCIL

18 April 2013

Thank you Madam Chairperson,

I would like to join the previous speakers in welcoming Ambassador Brush to the Permanent Council and express my thanks for her comprehensive and insightful report.

We commend the valuable efforts and contributions of the OSCE Mission to Moldova both in support of the endeavours of the host country in different fields of activities and its important role in the settlement process of the Transdniesterian conflict. It is gratifying to note that bilateral relations between Turkey and Moldova have made an additional leap forward last year thanks to the momentum provided by the exchange of high-level visits and the signing of additional seven agreements in different areas.

As with all protracted conflicts in which the OSCE is engaged for a long time in their settlement process, Turkey attaches utmost importance to reaching a lasting comprehensive solution to the Transdniesterian conflict within the framework of the principles adopted at the 1999 OSCE Istanbul Summit, based on respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Moldova.

In line with this understanding, we commend the efforts of the mediators that made it possible the holding of five successful 5+2 rounds in 2012 and the latest one in February. We also value the re-energizing of the Working Groups and hope concrete outcomes will result from the discussions carried out in this platform.

Madam Chairperson,

The resumption of official “5+2” negotiations raises hope that the Ukrainian Chairmanship’s efforts will yield positive and tangible progress during the year. We welcome the Mission’s decision to reassess the orientation of its activities to focus more on resolving Transdniesterian conflict in all its aspects within its existing mandate. We also appreciate the Ukrainian Chairmanship and the Special Representative Deshchytsia for their dedicated endeavors and support to provide new impetus towards a lasting settlement. Cognizant of the great opportunity emerged with Ukraine’s OSCE Chairmanship; we encourage all sides to exert their utmost to fully benefit from this environment by taking important steps for the long-awaited settlement of the conflict.

I would also like to mention that priorities, across the three dimensions, outlined in the report of Ambassador Brush for the next six months are shared by our Delegation as well, and we will continue to support the activities of the OSCE Mission to Moldova.

Before concluding, I would like to express our best wishes of success to Ambassador Brush and her able team in their valuable endeavours.

Thank you.

