



PC.DEL/61/08
25 January 2008

ENGLISH only

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

STATEMENT

by the Permanent Delegation of the Republic of Moldova
at the OSCE Permanent Council meeting
(24 January 2008)

Thank you, Mr. Chairman,

I would like to inform the Permanent Council on some recent developments in the process of transnistrian conflict resolution, in particular, on the visit of Chairman-in-office of the OSCE in the Republic of Moldova.

On 16 of January, the Chairman-in-Office of OSCE, Minister Illka Kanerva has visited the border check-point Palanca, where he met the personnel of the EU Border Assistance Mission field office in Kuciurgan. In the same day he had a meeting with the representatives of civil society of Moldova. On the 17 January, the Chairman-in-office met with President of Moldova, Vladimir Voronin, speaker of the Parliament Marian Lupu, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration, Andrei Stratan. The meetings were conducted in a constructive atmosphere, both sides showing understanding of the problems and difficulties that the settlement process is facing now. The leadership of Moldova has expressed its full support for the resumption, without preconditions and at the earliest convenience, of the political negotiations on comprehensive and lasting settlement in the "5+2" format.

The Moldovan authorities has confirmed their position on all aspects of the Transnistrian settlement process. There was also underlined the importance of support of mediators and observers for the "package approach" towards the conflict resolution process. The Moldovan side highlighted the artificial nature of the transnistrian issue, proved by the lack of ethnic or religious strives. We also reiterated the necessity of democratisation and demilitarisation of the transnistrian region as indispensable prerequisites of the final resolution of this conflict. The OSCE Chairman has expressed its support for the initiatives launched by the President of Moldova regarding confidence building between both sides of the conflict.

The Moldovan authorities and the OSCE Chairman in Office remarked that the Kosovo conflict and the transnistrian problem are different in its nature. Thus, the allegations that the solution for Kosovo will create a precedent are simply inconsistent.

The OSCE Chairman-in-Office and the Moldovan authorities share the view that the Transnistrian problem is not just an internal problem of my country, but has an impact on regional security and should be solved in broader European context, while respecting the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of the Republic of Moldova.

The visit paid by Minister Kanerva in the very beginning of the Chairmanship, as well as the expressed positions, show an adequate understanding of the problems that exist in the conflict settlement process and the willingness to play an active role in the multilateral dialogue on that issue.

While appreciating the unequivocal position and the engagement of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office, in advancing the settlement of the conflicts on the OSCE area, and the transnistrian issue, in particular, the Republic of Moldova counts on the joint efforts and common approach of the mediators and observers. We hope it will bring to the resumption of the “5+2” negotiations in close future.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman