



**Report on the Activities of the Chairperson-in-Office
925th Meeting of the Permanent Council**

In answer to a request from both Prime Minister Filat and Transdniestrian leader Shevchuk, a group of twenty civil society and media representatives from both Chisinau and Tiraspol visited Ireland the week before last. During their visit to Dublin and Belfast, the representatives met with their counterparts as well as with senior officials and political party representatives actively involved in the Northern Ireland peace process, and who continue to work on its implementation. This visit underlined the important contribution which both civil society and media can play in the Transdniestrian settlement process as well as in other post conflict peace processes.

The Chairperson-in-Office issued a statement on 5 October condemning the mortar attack emanating from within Syria on the Turkish village of Akcakale, on the Turkish-Syrian border, and expressed concern about escalating tensions.

The 21st round of the Geneva Discussions took place on 11 October and was co-chaired on behalf of the OSCE by Ambassador Pádraig Murphy, Special Representative of the Chairperson-in-Office for the South Caucasus. Discussion took place according to the established practice, in two working groups dealing respectively with security and stability and with humanitarian issues. At the initiative of the Irish OSCE Chairmanship, the discussion was preceded by an information session on missing persons, consisting of presentations by two officials of the Independent Commission for the Location of Victims' Remains. The experience of the search for the remains of persons who disappeared as a result of the conflict in Northern Ireland was much appreciated by the participants. The next round will take place on 12 December.

The Co-Chairs of the Geneva Discussions will address the Permanent Council on Thursday 1 November