



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

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18 July 2008

ENGLISH only

**GUAM Statement
at the 722nd meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council
17 July 2008**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman,

I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the Member States of the Organization for Democracy and Economic Development – GUAM. We warmly welcome H.E. Minister Bernard Kouchner to the Permanent Council and thank him for his comprehensive presentation of the French EU Presidency priorities, as well as for his views on the EU-OSCE cooperation. I would like to underline that at the recent GUAM Summit, which was held in Batumi, Georgia, on 30 June – 1 July 2008, all GUAM countries confirmed their adherence to European norms and values and stressed their aspiration to proceed along the path of European integration, with due account of individual particularities and aspirations of each country. It is worth mentioning that here in Vienna, the GUAM Delegations maintain close and constructive contacts with the EU partners.

Mr. Minister,

We are pleased to note that a number of priorities identified by the French Presidency are in full harmony with GUAM main objectives. The French Presidency will pay significant attention to the energy security and the GUAM is ready to be a good partner in strengthening energy security through the diversification of delivery routes and sources of energy resources, as it was reiterated at the Third GUAM Summit.

GUAM values the EU efforts to strengthen its role in the region by launching the Black Sea Synergy, which aims at strengthening EU cooperation with the Black Sea region and the relations between the countries of the region as well. In this view, the existing regional cooperation formats, including GUAM, may prove highly instrumental in reaching the goals of this new EU regional policy.

We welcome the fact that, within the OSCE, the French Presidency will place a special emphasis on the human dimension, including commemoration of the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. We take note of the ongoing process of updating of the EU Security Strategy and hope that this document will reflect the security concerns of GUAM countries too, in particular, the issue of the unresolved conflicts.

In this context, Mr Minister, we would like to stress that the unresolved conflicts represent a major obstacle for the European integration and the economic development of the concerned GUAM countries. Our joint position on the conflict settlement issue is based on the respect for sovereignty

and territorial integrity of Azerbaijan, Georgia and Moldova. We continue to stress the necessity to ensure security on the ground as well as the safe and dignified withdrawal of the refugees and internally displaced population to their homes. The entire population in the conflict-affected territories should benefit from significant autonomy in full accordance with the relevant norms and principles of international law, UN resolutions and OSCE decisions. In this context, while considering that solutions can be identified only within the framework of constructive, result-oriented and comprehensive negotiations, we strongly call for the revival of the peace talks in those cases where this process is stagnating. We also continue to stress the necessity of complete withdrawal of the foreign military forces from the territories of certain GUAM states.

In conclusion, Mr. Minister, we wish you every success in your challenging work. The GUAM countries will continue to develop constructive and meaningful dialogue with EU in the areas of common interest.

I thank you.