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

**STATEMENT**

By the Ambassador Valeriu CHIVERI at the OSCE Permanent Council meeting in response to the address delivered by the EU Special Representative for the Republic of Moldova, Mr. Kalman MIZSEI, 23 September 2010

Thank you Mr. Chairperson,

On behalf of the Moldovan delegation I am pleased to warmly welcome EUSR Kalman Mizsei at the today Permanent Council and thank him for his report.

Let me first touch upon the political situation in my country. Probably the main characteristic of the Moldovan politics during the last year is a high level of dynamism and free competition of ideas and political programs. Among the most notable achievements in the field of democracy-building, I would like to mention the increasing freedom and diversity of the media and a renewed commitment to the respect of human rights. Another one is the increasing importance of the dialogue between political parties. The activity of the current coalition government offers us a great deal of experience in this sense. Although the decision-making process is not always a smooth exercise, there are clear improvements in terms of respecting laws and ensuring transparency.

I would like to underline that while the September constitutional referendum has failed on low turnout, we consider that it was a useful experience for Moldova. Following this development and after a short uncertain period we are entering a phase with a clear scenario. Upon the request of the Acting President the Constitutional Court has ruled that all necessary conditions to dissolve the Parliament are in place. We expect the Acting President to decide on the date of early parliamentary elections in the coming days. Considering statements made by senior leaders, early parliamentary elections should take place in late November.

An ODIHR Needs Assessment Mission already paid a visit to Moldova and its report will be distributed soon. We are looking forward to continue the fruitful cooperation established with ODIHR during the upcoming elections while the Moldovan authorities remain fully committed to the conduct of free and fair elections. Echoing the statement delivered by Dr. Mizsei, we all hope that the November elections will bring long-awaited stability to my country.

Turning to the topic of European integration, I should underline that the Government in Chisinau is committed to promote reforms that would bring Moldova closer to the EU. The Republic of Moldova is witnessing certainly for the first time during many years that our dialogue with the EU deepens in all areas.

We are progressing successfully on the negotiations over the Association Agreement. We have negotiated in good faith and have provisionally closed many important chapters of this

Agreement. We look forward to holding the fourth round of negotiations on 14 October in Chisinau.

During the last 2 weeks, we hosted in Chisinau the EU expert on-site evaluation missions on all the 4 Blocks within the Visa Dialogue, which was launched on 15 June 2010, in Luxembourg. A series of significant positive developments in the Justice and Home Affairs area took place recently. To mention few: the ratification of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, the adoption of a new Law on Foreigners, the Government has set up the Integrated Border Management Council as well the Government took the Decision to start issuing exclusively biometric passports from 1 January 2011 and adopted a national implementation plan in this regard, etc.

In this context we are hopeful that the results of the recent EU missions will move us to the next operational phase of the Visa Dialogue in October 2010 and will enable us to start working together on a detailed road-map/Action-Plan for the visa free travel regime.

Also, as an update on the EU-Moldova dialogue, I should mention that a COEST delegation visited Moldova with a fact-finding mission last week. On 30 September 2010, in Chisinau, we will host the Third Meeting of the Group for the European Action of the Republic of Moldova. We expect an important presence for this event; Commissioner for Enlargement and European Neighbourhood Policy as well as many EU Foreign Ministers have confirmed their participation.

Now let me refer to the Transnistrian settlement. Having in mind that we will make a more detailed presentation on this topic later in October, I will limit myself to a couple of points. First of all, we share the assessments made by the distinguished EU Special Representative with regard to the latest developments in the process, in particular the confidence-building track and recent decisions by Chişinău aimed at facilitating the economic activity of Transnistrian companies. We take this opportunity to reiterate our high appreciation for the work done by EU Border Assistance Mission to Moldova and Ukraine and consider that its presence in the field should be maintained until the final resolution of the conflict.

At the discussions held in Chisinau two days ago in the context of the 3+2 visit, all delegations expressed their unanimous support for the policies promoted by the Moldovan Government as well as for the objective of early resumption of the official negotiations in the 5+2 format. We welcome this approach. It should be also clear, that the resumption of official talks is not a goal in itself. We managed to identify a number of relevant issues, in particular in the field of freedom of movement, and had an extensive exchange of opinions on them. Next stage would be to start preparing decisions and that's why we need a functional negotiation mechanism. The upcoming round of consultations in the 5+2 format should bring its contribution to this end. In the same context, we sincerely hope that the efforts invested by Presidents of the Russian Federation and Ukraine, German Chancellor Merkel, EU High Representative Ashton and, of course, by the OSCE Kazakh Chairmanship, will bring expected results. We believe it is a common understanding that the resumption of the "5+2" negotiations would be a positive development on the eve of the Astana Summit.

Finally, once again, I would like to thank UESR Kalman Mizsei for his work and wish him and his team all the best and success in the future endeavours.

Thank you.