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Session VI - Specific transport security aspects and the role of the OSCE

I would like to point out some considerations on transport security aspects linked with the political issues of protracted conflicts in the OSCE area. Particularly, for the Republic of Moldova the Transnistrian settlement process is a subject of a great importance. In this context, I would like to draw your attention especially on the latest developments connected to the efforts aimed at the integral reopening of train traffic through the Transnistrian region of the Republic of Moldova.

The Moldovan authorities have repeatedly expressed their willingness, including within the Confidence and Security Building measures, to identify a solution with regard of the resumption of railway network functioning on the whole territory of the Republic of Moldova. In this regard, it is important to take into account that for the train traffic reopening there is a need to comply with 3 basic conditions, and namely:

- relations between railway authorities from Chisinau and Tiraspol (administrative center of the Transnistrian region of the Republic of Moldova) must not contradict the national and international legislation in this field;
- the necessity of ensuring the required level of technical security of train traffic;
- the necessity of performing the required customs and border procedures.

Referring to the last subject, it is important to mention the readiness of the Moldovan Customs authorities to perform a joint customs control with the Ukrainian and Transnistrian customs authorities, including carrying out customs control during train's movement.

One of the first steps proposed in the context of solving the existing problems represents the opportunity of organizing an expert mission to Transnistrian region with the scope of carrying out the technical inspection of railway infrastructure in the region. A group of experts from the Republic of Moldova, its Transnistrian region, Ukraine, European Union, the European Railway Agency and the Organization for Cooperation between Railways are supposed to take part in this visit. The expected period of this mission is July 2010.

Also, there was proposed organizing a Fact Finding Mission to the Transnistrian region with participation of the border and customs authorities from Chisinau and Tiraspol. The supposed period for carrying out the Mission is July 2010. The main purpose is to examine the possibilities of performing customs control by the Moldovan authorities during train's movement on the Transnistrian region territory.

Another important aspects for moving forward with this issue is the need to determine the status of the Transnistrian region railway, as well as the principles of establishing and maintaining relations between the Moldovan and Transnistrian region railway authorities. Currently, these activities are being carried out with the participation and support of the European Union experts. We are particularly grateful to the European Union for its readiness to play a role of mediator in this process as well as for its expressed readiness

to provide assistance in the view of attracting foreign investment in the railway sector of the Republic of Moldova. We hope that the aforementioned expert Missions to the Transnistrian region of the Republic of Moldova, supposed to be held in July this year, will yield tangible positive results, which will help resuming railways communication in the region.