



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

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STATEMENT

On incidents in the Security Zone of the Republic of Moldova
950th Permanent Council
2 May 2013

Mr. Chairperson,

I would like to thank those delegations that raised this issue for bringing attention on recent developments in the Security Zone of the Republic of Moldova, particularly the incident that took place on 26th and 27th of April 2013 in the city of Bender. Just two weeks ago, at the meeting of the Permanent Council the Head of the OSCE Mission to Moldova, Ambassador Brush and our delegation have pointed out on increasing tensions in the Security Zone due to unilateral actions undertaken by regime in Tiraspol. Regretfully, we notice that the series of provocative actions continued during the last weekend.

On Friday evening, a detachment of special destination forces belonging to the Transnistrian “customs committee” was deployed to the northern part of the city of Bender and set up 2 “customs check-points”. The checkpoints were established between villages of Varnitsa and Gura Bîcului which are under Moldovan jurisdiction. These actions were not coordinated with the Moldovan side and violated the existing arrangements in the Security Zone, as well as generated significant protests of local population from Varnitsa. Some physical altercations between local residents and “Transnistrian special forces” took place on the spot. After tensed negotiations one of the check-points was dismantled later in the night and another one was evacuated the second day. Interim Prime-minister Iurie Leancă informed the OSCE Chairman in Office Minister Kozhara in a phone call about the incident.

Let me share a number of conclusions in connection with this incident.

The risk of unilateral actions which could generate tensions on the ground has increased. Tiraspol undertook a number of such steps in past months. It affects seriously the atmosphere in the dialogue between Chisinau and Tiraspol as well as undermines the trust between sides. We reiterate our call to the Transnistrian side to refrain from any step that might further affect the stability and public order. The situation in the Security Zone becomes even more relevant topic for discussion in all negotiation mechanisms, including the 5+2 format.

Not all of the mechanisms worked well during the tensions. The deployment of the military observers was again delayed by the Transnistrian side for a few hours – the

time when they were the most needed to register the developments. This is another case in a long series and probably not the last case when we are witnessing that the existing peacekeeping mechanism is not able to provide an adequate reaction to the incident. And of course it also proves that this operation is very far from meeting UN or OSCE peacekeeping standards as some delegations claim. This incident proves the relevance of our longstanding call for transformation of the current arrangement into a multinational civilian mission under an international mandate.

We welcome the involvement of the Ukrainian Chairmanship and statement issued by the Head of the OSCE Mission on that incident. Nevertheless, we would like to call on all partners involved in the conflict resolution process to keep the situation under close watch and be ready to provide the necessary political assistance in preventing and defusing tensions. In the meantime, we believe that an independent assessment of the situation in the Security Zone is needed to assess the risks and work out recommendations on reducing potential for tensions.

Thank you