



Statement By the Delegation of the Republic of Moldova At the OSCE Permanent Council meeting 14 June 2007

Mr. Chairman,

On 3 June 2007, local elections took place in the Republic of Moldova. The Election Observation Mission of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights is closely monitoring this important event and assessed compliance of the electoral process with OSCE and Council of Europe commitments, and other international standards for democratic elections, and domestic legislation. The recommendations included in ODIHR Statement of Preliminary Findings and Conclusions will be given thorough consideration by competent Moldovan authorities, while we appreciate the efforts of Ambassador Dieter Boden and his team.

Regrettably, some of the concerns voiced previously by the Moldovan delegation at the Permanent Council became true. The transnistrian separatist regime used all of its resources to project a negative impact on the election process. One of the consequences of these provocative actions was the disruption of elections in the Corjova village, situated in the sensible sector of the Security Zone on the left bank of the Nistru river.

The OSCE Mission distributed a report that describes in details the situation on the ground on the election day in Corjova and clearly demonstrates that the separatist regime thoroughly prepared this provocative action in advance. According to an established scenario, the Tiraspol Administration's security forces, namely, the so-called "militia", in this case play the main role. Several dozens of the militiamen simply entered the village and closed the polling station, using, in certain cases, brutal physical force. We commend the efforts of the Head of the OSCE Mission to Moldova Amb. O'Neill and his team and count on their continuous involvement in this sense.

We already noted on previous occasions, that transnistrian security forces feel at large in the Security Zone, which, in theory, is controlled by the so-called peacekeepers. They do this with the full confidence that this mechanism cannot and will not stop them. The only outcome of the Joint Control Commission extraordinary meeting, which took almost six hours to convene, was a general address to forces present on site to withdraw. Indeed, they withdrew, but only after Election Day have finished.

The situation remains tense as we speak. During yesterday's meeting of the Joint Control Commission it became obvious that the separatist regime is prepared to block the election process on June 17 again, when repeated elections will take place. In this regard, the JCC called on sides to refrain from any step that can further deteriorate the situation. At the same time the JCC has charged the military commander of the Central and North sectors of the Security Zone, as well as the group of military observers, to strengthen the control over the situation in this Central sector of the Security Zone.

The Moldovan authorities are deeply concerned with the situation on the ground and with the prospect of a repeated denial to the people of the Corjova village of their constitutional right to vote. We call on the mediators and observers in the "5+2" negotiation format, especially the Russian Federation, to undertake all necessary efforts in order to prevent new provocations on June 17.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman