ENGLISH only



STATEMENT

by the Delegation of the Republic of Moldova at the OSCE Permanent Council meeting, 21 April 2005 (On the situation in the Security Zone)

Mr. Chairman.

Last week this Delegation informed the Permanent Council on the deteriorating situation in the Security Zone in the Republic of Moldova and the efforts of the Moldovan side to reach solutions in order to normalise the activity of the Joint Control Commission (JCC). Even after Reintegration Minister Vasile Sova has been impeded to participate at the Commission's meeting, the Moldovan side continued to look for a compromise. An agreement between Chisinau and Tiraspol was reached and approved at the high level, that would have provided for an access by the local Moldovan population to their own land in order to start the agricultural season.

Regretfully, that agreement was blatanly violated by the transnistrian regime, with no explanation provided to the Moldovan side at the meeting of the Joint Control Commission on 19 April 2005. No further efforts made it possible for the Commission to either continue the search for a solution or at least adequately react to the situation created. In this context, the Moldovan Delegation to the JCC has reserved the right to suspend its participation in the activities of the Commission and issued a relevant statement that was distributed together with the last OSCE Mission's Spot Report.

The Republic of Moldova considers that under the circumstances, the mediators should display the best of their skills and authority in order to ensure the meaningfull activity of the JCC.

For Moldova, the participation in the Commission is not a scholastic exercise but rather a means to ensure adequate living conditions and security for the local population in the region. Failing to achieve that, we stand ready for a revision of the existing mechanisms and appeal to the OSCE Chairmanship to assist us in exploring different ways of improving the situation.

Mr. Chairman,

As a first step, we consider it helpful to send a number of international observers to monitor the situation in the Security Zone and eliminate any risc of eventual provocations. We hope that this request would find a positive response on behalf of the Chairmanship and the participating states.

Thank you.