ENGLISH only



STATEMENT

by the Permanent Delegation of the Republic of Moldova in response to Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Lithuania H.E. Mr. Vygaudas Ušackas (15 October 2009)

Thank you Madam Chairperson,

On behalf of the Moldovan Delegation I would like to warmly welcome Minister Ušackas at this meeting of the Permanent Council and thank him for his presentation. It is always useful to learn about the approach towards the issues relevant for security of Europe from the country that is preparing to take the Chairmanship of the OSCE.

We welcome the fact that Lithuania is paying priority attention to the conflict resolution as one of core-tasks of the OSCE. We can not, but share Lithuania's view that protracted conflicts represent the top-threat to security in the OSCE area. Just two days ago, at the Corfu process meeting on conflict resolution, this delegation presented Moldova's approach towards dealing with this cross-dimensional challenge. It is based on strict respect of the basic principles of the international law, especially those pertaining to sovereignty, territorial integrity and inviolability of the internationally recognized borders of concerned states. Upholding the principle of non-use of force we pledge for result-oriented political dialogue within internationally recognized and balanced negotiation formats as well as for effective implementation of the confidence and security building measures.

With regard to the Transnistrian problem, we call for unconditional resumption of the negotiations in the "5+2" format in order to move forward towards a final and viable solution to the conflict. The issue of unlawful foreign military presence on the Moldovan territory should also be solved in accordance with relevant OSCE decisions and commitments. In this context, we believe that the *quintet* mechanism assists Lithuania, together with the current Greek Chairmanship and incoming Kazakh Chairmanship, to closely follow the process and prepare for playing pro-active and constructive role in transnistrian settlement.

Touching upon European security issue, I would like to reassure that my country shares most of the ideas presented here by Minister Ušackas. We support the comprehensive

dialogue on European security aimed at rebuilding trust and strengthening implementation of the existing commitments.

Mr. Minister, Moldova's cooperation with EU is gaining a fresh impetus. Yesterday, Moldovan Government started consultations with European Union on the new association agreement. We rely on Lithuania's support in this process as well as in future discussions on liberalization of visa regime with EU. We highly appreciate the fact that after new Government was established in Chisinau, Lithuania was among the first countries that sent its delegation to hold comprehensive consultations on the perspectives of bilateral and multilateral cooperation. Moldovan authorities are very grateful and inspired by the Lithuanian interest for multidimensional cooperation and the consistent support brought for our European integration bid.

I thank you.