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

STATEMENT

by the Permanent Delegation of the Republic of Moldova
at the OSCE Permanent Council meeting
(16 October 2008)

Mr. Chairman,

The Republic of Moldova welcomes the adoption by the General Affairs and External Relations Council at its meeting on 13 October of the conclusions regarding the Republic of Moldova. The Moldovan authorities highly appreciate the readiness of the European Union to deepen relations with the Republic of Moldova and to negotiate in close future „a new ambitious agreement” that will bring Moldova closer to the integration into European Union.

The Republic of Moldova is fully aware of the importance of ensuring the continuous progress in the internal reforms in all spheres as it is prescribed by EU-Moldova Action Plan. At the meeting of the EU-Moldova Cooperation Council in May this year we have undertaken the commitment to maintain a constant progress in key-areas of the reform process. Thereby, the National Commission for European Integration, chaired by the President V.Voronin has adopted the European Integration Agenda for 2008.

We are looking forward to identifying, without further delay, new common priorities that would strengthen the relations between Moldova and EU. The recent assessment by EU Foreign Ministers serves as an additional impulse to the efforts undertaken in this regard. In spring of 2009, the parliamentary elections will take place in Moldova. The holding of free and fair elections as well as a correct electoral campaign has a crucial importance for the governmental authorities, political parties and civil society.

Mr Chairman,

We welcome the fact that EU is demonstrating an increased engagement in the efforts aimed at solving the Transnistrian conflict on the basis of sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Moldova.

We reiterate our firm position regarding a “package solution” for the Transnistrian conflict that would settle all political, military, social and economic issues in this sense. A sustainable “package solution” can be identified only in the framework of the “5+2” negotiation format. We regret that the round of “5+2” consultations, scheduled to take place between 7 – 8 October in Vienna, was cancelled because of unconstructive approach by the Transnistrian leaders. We call on Tiraspol to come back to the negotiation process without any preconditions and to engage in a constructive dialogue.

We appreciate the efforts of our European partners in promoting the settlement process, in particular, through supporting the Moldovan initiatives on confidence and security building measures. The implementation of these measures will provide a favorable climate for the conflict settlement process. We reiterate our appeal to the Transnistrian leaders regarding the coordination and implementation of the relevant projects in the fields of infrastructure, environment, economy, social care and humanitarian affairs. A significant step in this direction could be the implementation of a joint project on disarmament and demilitarisation on both banks of the Nistru river. This project will provide a significant decrease of the military factor in the region and strengthened confidence and security.

In conclusion, Mr Chairman, We are convinced that the proposed goals can be achieved only with an adequate political will demonstrated by all participants to the process.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman