

STATEMENT
BY H.E. MR. IURIE LEANCĂ,
DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER, MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
AND EUROPEAN INTEGRATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA,
AT THE NINETEENTH MEETING OF THE OSCE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL

ENGLISH only

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Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.
Dear colleagues,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am delighted to address such a distinguished audience here in Dublin. It is a pleasure for me to join the previous speakers in expressing our gratitude to the Irish Chairmanship, particularly Minister Gilmore and his dedicated team, for the warm hospitality in Dublin and tremendous work throughout the year. We also welcome Mongolia as the 57th Participating State of the OSCE.

The Republic of Moldova continues to attach a great importance to the OSCE as a key pillar of the European security architecture and one of the leading actors in the human rights field. In the political-military dimension we are looking forward to continuing efforts revitalizing on updating the CFE regime and modernizing the Vienna Document 2011. In human dimension Moldova has been supporting a number of documents, including on enhancing freedom of expression and of the media and freedom of assembly and association, etc.

We support Irish Chairmanship efforts to launch the Helsinki +40 process and would welcome a meaningful decision on this issue. The document should provide strategic tasks for upcoming chairmanships and guide our Organization towards a genuine security community.

Mr. Chairperson,

Let me now turn to the Transnistrian conflict settlement which was among the priorities on the OSCE agenda during this year. As it is characteristic to other conflict resolution processes, there are moments of rising hope but also moments of disappointment. Just to give you a few examples. The channels for dialogue between Chisinau and Tiraspol were opened at all levels, but this dialogue is not always dynamic and sincere. We reached an agreement on a comprehensive agenda for negotiations comprised of three thematic baskets, but the discussion on the most important basket which is related to political and security issues can not be started due to a strong resistance from some participants to the negotiations who previously agreed with this point. Therefore, while the atmosphere is not always encouraging, the Moldovan Government remains firmly committed to promote the confidence building measures, remove obstacles for freedom of movement of people, goods and services as well as work toward improving respect of human rights, particularly in relation to Moldovan Latin script schools.

I would also like to share some thoughts on the way we see the perspectives of the 5+2 talks. In order to become an efficient negotiation process, it clearly needs certain corrections. *First* and foremost, the basket related to political and security issues should be finally opened for discussions. In order to advance – the process needs a set of basic principles that would shape the final settlement. *Second*, the negotiations should move from technical questions to more broader and systemic issues. *Third*, after the resumption of the official negotiations the role of

international mediators and observers became even more important. A common approach, unified political will and coordinated efforts on behalf of the OSCE, Russia, Ukraine, EU and US are very much needed to ensure that negotiations are constructive, based on good will and oriented towards achieving a comprehensive settlement. Major political inputs, such as the Meseberg initiative, can generate a favorable international context to move the settlement process ahead.

On this occasion, let me reiterate that a final and viable solution to the conflict can only be based on the respect of sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Moldova in its internationally recognized borders. Within the reunified Moldova the Transnistrian region should enjoy a special legal status which would provide the region with a comfortable level of self-governance. We thank the mediators and observers for their general support towards such an approach but also stress the need to make sure that actions are in full harmony with declared positions.

Mr. Chairperson,

We remain convinced that the current peacekeeping operation does not meet the real needs on the ground in the Security Zone. The objective of adjusting the peacekeeping arrangement to existing realities and relevant international standards is well known and has been discussed previously. What we need now is a meaningful discussion on the ways to transform the existing operation into a multinational, civilian and compact mission under an appropriate international mandate tasked to promote confidence and better interaction between the sides.

Referring to political-military aspects, I would like to reiterate our longstanding position on the need to finalize the withdrawal of the Russian forces from the territory of the Republic of Moldova, in particular the remaining ammunition stockpiles from Cobasna village. Let me remind that these forces are stationed in Moldova contrary to Constitutional provisions and international commitments, as well as without the consent of the host-country. Certain recent steps towards military modernization and build up in the region represent a serious concern for us and we hope to clarify the situation through a transparent and sincere dialogue with our interlocutors in Moscow. We are confident that the completion of this process will have a positive effect on the resolution of the Transnistrian conflict.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairperson, let me just point out that as a member of the OSCE community, the Republic of Moldova remains fully committed to an open and constructive cooperation on the whole range of issues of the organization's agenda. We will continue to address our security concerns through a pragmatic dialogue with the key-players in the region aimed at finding collective responses consistent with OSCE norms, principles and commitments. While advancing on the path of European integration, Moldova's economy, justice system, human rights sector are going through deep institutional and legislative reforms. It is our firm belief that the successes achieved in transforming Moldova into a modern European state will bring the reintegration of the country closer.

Finally, I thank the Irish Chairmanship, its Special Representative of the Transnistrian settlement and the OSCE Mission to Moldova for their dedicated efforts as well as for sharing relevant lessons from the Northern Ireland peace process. I would like to wish the incoming Ukrainian Chairmanship every success in 2013 and reaffirm our readiness to work closely with our colleagues from Kiev towards achieving progress in the Transnistrian conflict settlement.

Thank you.