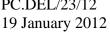
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STATEMENT

by Ambassador Valeriu Chiveri, Head of the Permanent Delegation at the Permanent Council meeting, 19 January 2012

Mr Chairperson,

This Delegation has already referred in its statement at the previous Permanent Council meeting to the shooting incident of 1 January 2012 in the Security Zone that resulted in the death of Moldovan citizen Vadim Pisari caused by a Russian peacekeeper. The case which was largely reflected in the media has triggered tensions in the Security Zone and generated serious public protests. The Moldovan Government undertook the necessary measures to calm down the situation. At the same time, the Moldovan leadership made it clear that there are no justifications for human losses.

We have stressed on a number of occasions the importance for a thorough and objective investigation of this case. In this respect, I would like to reiterate that despite certain legal and procedural peculiarities of the investigation our common goal is to get a clear picture about this case. The law enforcement authorities should demonstrate open-minded and cooperative approach. In the meantime, we are expecting the Joint Military Command of the peacekeeping forces to release its own report on the incident. We hope it will draw a number of lessons to be learned in order to avoid such incidents in future.

Mr. Chairperson, let me underline that this tragic event has underscored once again the outdated nature of the existing militarized peacekeeping arrangements. The Moldovan Government has been constantly pleading for the transformation of the current operation into a multinational civilian mission under a relevant international mandate that would change the focus from separation to interaction and confidence building between both banks of Nistru river. In this respect, we reiterate our call to the international partners involved in the Transnistrian settlement to start result oriented discussions toward this end. We welcome that a number of partners have already confirmed their readiness to engage in such a dialogue.

Thank you.