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ENGLISH only



Statement By the Delegation of the Republic of Moldova At the OSCE Permanent Council meeting, 19 July 2007

Mr. Chairman,

The Moldovan Delegation also would like to welcome the EU Special Representative, Ambassador Kalman Mizsei, to the Permanent Council for the first time he took his function and thank him for sharing with us his comprehensive overview of the main issues in the transnistrian conflict settlement process.

We share the assessment of the EU Special Representative that the transnistrian problem is basically artificially created and could be rapidly resolved if there a firm political will, from the part of all international actors involved, will be provided to this end. In this context, the Moldovan Authorities will continue to strive on enhancing the role of the international community in the settlement process.

We consider that continuous blockage of the negotiation process by the Tiraspol regime, hindering the efforts undertaken by the mediators and observers to move forward towards a lasting settlement of the transnistrian conflict could not be more tolerated. The Republic of Moldova calls on all parties to redouble their efforts in order to determine Tiraspol to return without delay to the negotiation table in the 5+2 format and works constructively on the issues in the agenda. We do consider that obtaining by the European Union and the United States of the status of full-fledged mediators will definitely contribute to advance in the settlement process.

The sustainable solution to the transnistrian problem should be achieved only in the 5+2 format, on the basis of full respect for the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of the Republic of Moldova. The transnistrian region could obtain a special status within the reintegrated country. In this sense, the objectives of democratisation and demilitarisation of the transnistrian region, as well its economical reintegration within the Republic of Moldova are of the prime importance.

Mr. Chairman, we should attach a special attention to the issue of human rights in the regions controlled by the unconstitutional separatist regimes, be to in transnistrian region of the Republic of Moldova or elsewhere. We reiterate our deep concern with regard to grave violations of the human rights by the separatist regime in Tiraspol, an issue that was recently touched by the European Parliament in its resolution from 12 of July 2007.

As far as the situation in the Security Zone is concerned, we would like to underline the persistence of tensions generated by the arbitrary decisions and actions of the Tiraspol administration. The free movement of persons and goods continued to be obstructed. The forces of the separatist regime continuously violate the special regime in the Security Zone, particularly by conducting a military exercise, while the Joint Control Commission are not being properly informed and proved to be ineffective. Thus, the Moldovan Authorities continue to insist on the urgent transformation of the current peacekeeping mechanism into a multinational mission under the OSCE mandate.

With regard to demilitarisation of the transnistrian region, we reiterate the need of complete and unconditional withdrawal of Russian forces from the territory of the Republic of Moldova in accordance with the relevant decisions of the OSCE Istanbul Summit of 1999. In the context of last developments around the CFE Treaty, the Moldovan Authorities reiterate their firm position on ratification of the Adapted CFE Treaty as soon as the commitments undertaken by the Russian Federation in Istanbul, 1999, will be fulfilled.

Implementation of the Joint Declaration by the Prime Ministers of the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine from 30 December 2005 remains a priority for our authorities. More than 330 enterprises from the transnistrian region have been registered with the constitutional authorities and, accordingly with recent modifications in the national legislation, have to abide with WTO standards. The main scope, in this regard, is to assure the transparency of the import-export flows in the transnistrian region, as well as the legal framework for the activity of enterprises in the region. Transnistrian companies now benefits of preferential trade regime offered by the foreign partners, mainly by the EU, and, in this regard, we should remark the positive dynamics of theirs exports activities.

Mr. Chairman, implementation of the EU-Moldova Action Plan has become a priority both for domestic and foreign policy of the Moldovan Government. We are looking forward to launching EU-Moldova discussions on the future Association Agreement that will replace the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement expiring in 2008. The further enhancement of the EU-Moldova dialogue in the field of energy security, improving trade and visa regimes, through establishing of the Autonomous Trade Preferences and entry into force of the Visa Facilitation Regime and Readmission Agreements by the end of current year, will constitute an important impetus for enhancing stability and economic growth of the Republic of Moldova.

We express our appreciation for the activity of Ambassador Mizsei and wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman