



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

STATEMENT

by Ambassador Valeriu Chiveri, Head of the Permanent Delegation of the Republic of Moldova to the OSCE, Permanent Council, 17 February 2011

Mr. Chairperson,

I would like to thank those delegations who have raised the case of Ilie Cazac in the Permanent Council. This Delegation has already briefly informed the Permanent Council on this regrettable decision of the Tiraspol regime. In this respect, the Government of the Republic of Moldova has issued a statement that strongly condemns these actions qualifying them as violation of human rights, primarily the right of access to qualified legal assistance and to an independent and legitimate trial. The case of Ilie Cazac, along with that of Ernest Vardanean, was raised during the recent meeting in the 5+2 format. The Moldovan authorities have called on all international partners to contribute to identifying an early solution to this issue.

Mr. Chairperson,

It is difficult to overlook the rather dubious coincidence of sentencing Mr. Cazac on the very day the OSCE Chairman was visiting Tiraspol. We consider that the cases of Ilie Cazac and Ernest Vardanyan represent an unnecessary obstacle to the efforts aimed at creating a favorable environment in the Transnistrian conflict settlement. Despite these setbacks, the Moldovan Government remains determined to promote unconditional resumption of the official negotiations in the 5+2 format on a comprehensive political settlement of the Transnistrian issue. Although the recent meeting did not produce a breakthrough, it was helpful to maintain a dialogue, raise issues of concern and discuss perspectives.

Thank you.