



PERMANENT DELEGATION
OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA
TO THE OSCE

STATEMENT

**by the Republic of Moldova in response to the address by the
Minister for Foreign Affairs of Austria, H.E. Mr. Sebastian Kurz**
(1108th Permanent Council, July 14, 2016)

Mr. Chairperson,

We warmly welcome H.E. Mr. Sebastian Kurz, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Austria to the Permanent Council and thank him for outlining the priorities of the in-coming Austrian OSCE Chairmanship for the next year. The Republic of Moldova has aligned with the statement delivered by the European Union. In addition, we would like to make some remarks in our national capacity.

We commend Austria's initiative to assume the Chairmanship at a very challenging time for the OSCE. For the last several years, the Organization has been confronting with an increasing number of security challenges stemming both from inside and outside the OSCE area. The unresolved protracted conflicts, the on-going crisis in and around Ukraine as well as emerging threats generated by the upsurge of terrorism, trafficking in human beings, illegal migration are just few issues that underline the importance of strengthening OSCE's capacities to address more efficiently the old core issues and the new challenges. The OSCE is well placed to address in an inclusive and comprehensive manner the most pressing issues on the European security agenda. The up-coming Informal Ministerial meeting in Potsdam will provide the opportunity to assess where we stand now and to explore initiatives on reconsolidating security in Europe.

For the last two and a half years the OSCE's agenda has been dominated by the crisis in and around Ukraine. The crisis further undermines stability and security in Europe as well as the already fragile security environment in our region in light of the existing Transnistrian conflict. We support diplomatic efforts for a political resolution of the crisis based on the respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine within its international recognized borders.

Mr. Minister,

We highly value your readiness to continue efforts on advancing the resolution of protracted conflicts in the OSCE area. The Transnistrian conflict is one of those issues that require constant engagement of the OSCE, including the Chairmanship, Special Representative, field mission and the executive structures. Let me use this opportunity to express our appreciation to Austria for its valuable support to the negotiation process by providing the good offices in Vienna for the 5+2 meetings. While planning activities for the next year, we should seize the opportunity provided by the resumption of the 5+2 talks last month in Berlin and the Informal High Level Conference on CBMs that concluded yesterday in Bavaria in order to give the necessary political impetus to advance the political resolution of the conflict.

Looking ahead, we hope to achieve tangible progress on issues currently addressed that would facilitate launching negotiations on political and comprehensive settlement of the conflict. We deem it important to ensure continuity during the Austrian Chairmanship of the work done under the German Chairmanship. At the same time, we need to continue closely monitoring the situation on the ground and to take necessary steps to prevent potential crisis situation.

On a bilateral note, the Republic of Moldova and Austria enjoy very good relations based on shared European norms and values. The up-coming official opening of the Austrian Embassy in the Republic of Moldova testifies the commitment of our countries to deepen the already existing strong partnership.

In conclusion, we would like to reassure H.E. Minister Sebastian Kurz of our full support and to wish him and his able team every success in fulfilling the challenging task of leading our Organization in the year of 2017.

Thank you.