



PERMANENT DELEGATION
OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA
TO THE OSCE

PC.DEL/658/04
14 July 2004

ENGLISH only

STATEMENT

at the 516th meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council
(Vienna, 14 July 2004)

Mr. Chairman,

Speaking on behalf of the GUUAM – Azerbaijan, Georgia, Ukraine and Moldova, I would like to warmly welcome H.E Dr. Bernard Rudolf Bot, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands, to the Permanent Council and congratulate the Netherlands on assuming the Presidency of the European Union. Let me also thank the distinguished Minister for his statement in which he highlighted the Dutch priorities for the next six months.

While being grateful to the Irish Delegation for close cooperation with the GUUAM group, we are confident that it will be further developed under the Dutch Presidency.

Mr Chairman,

The development of a close cooperation with the European Union and further gradual integration into the European structures represents one of the major objectives and distinct priority of our respective countries.

The recent enlargement of the European Union and the experience accumulated by the new Member States on their way to the accession could serve a good example and an encouragement for our aspirations to advance on the way towards an enhanced relationship with the EU.

We would like to stress the importance of completion of negotiations on the EU-Moldova Action Plan and further elaboration of the EU – Ukraine Action Plan in the framework of the European Neighborhood Policy. We are deeply convinced that such Action Plans should not be the simple system of existing spheres of cooperation but provide relevant joint actions, aimed at qualitative upgrading relations between our countries and the EU in all fields.

We also welcome decision adopted by the European Council on June 17, 2004 to include Southern Caucasus countries, in particular Azerbaijan and Georgia, in the European Neighborhood Policy, giving them the same possibilities to develop their link with the EU, including through Action Plans.

Mr. Chairman,

We welcome the increased involvement of the EU in the process of the Transnistrian conflict settlement in Moldova. In this respect, the deployment of a joint EU-OSCE monitoring operation in cooperation with Ukrainian border units on the Moldovan-Ukrainian border could serve a good example of practical contribution aimed at facilitating the conflict settlement and consolidating the regional stability and security.

We express our hope that experience and good practices the EU has developed in both political settlement of conflicts and in the post-conflict rehabilitation would be applied by the Union with regard to unresolved conflicts in Transnistrian region in Moldova, Abkhaz and Tskhinvali regions in Georgia and Nagorno-Karabakh region in Azerbaijan. We believe that the EU can make its valuable contribution to finding durable solutions of these conflicts based on norms and principles of international law, the relevant UNSC resolutions and the OSCE decisions, including those pertaining to the sovereignty, territorial integrity and inviolability of borders.

Finally, Mr Chairman, let me once again thank H.E. Dr. Bernard Rudolf Bot for addressing the Permanent Council and wish him success.

Thank you.