

ENGLISH only



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**Right of reply of Romania to the intervention made by the representative of the  
Foundation for Study of Democracy from Russia**

**Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting**

**Vienna, 14-15 April 2016**

**Session I**

Mr. Moderator,

I would like to exercise my right of reply to the intervention made by the representative of the Foundation for Study of Democracy from Russia.

I would like to underline two aspects:

1. The bilateral relations between Romania and the Republic of Moldova are relations between two independent and sovereign states, based on mutual respect and cooperation. Romania was the first state to recognize the independence of Republic of Moldova, only a few hours after its proclamation on August 27, 1991. Romania has been a constant supporter of the European path of Republic of Moldova. The Strategic Partnership for the European Integration of Republic of Moldova guides our bilateral relations. Romania is the driving force and the most fervent promoter of the European path of the Republic of Moldova, both at the diplomatic level and in terms of financial assistance. We were the first EU Member State to ratify the Association Agreement of the R. of Moldova with EU and we are supporting the authorities in Chişinău in the implementation of the Association Agenda.
2. Romania highly values all international and European standards in the field of national minorities and considers them crucial for a democracy-based society. Romania managed to develop, with the important support of the members of the 20 national minorities that live on its territory, a system for the protection of their rights, which stand above international standards in the field. This system is efficient in protecting and promoting the cultural, linguistic and religious identity of persons belonging to national minorities who live on the territory of Romania. This is entirely confirmed by the conclusions of the different monitoring mechanisms established under the relevant Council of Europe conventions.

The individuals and local communities should be left to decide themselves how they want to be called and this is to be respected. Romania does not question the principle of self-identification, but it must be balanced with the objective criteria of scientific findings in order to produce the best solutions for the preservation of their ethnic, cultural, religious and linguistic specificity.

Thank you, Mr. Moderator.