



PERMANENT DELEGATION
OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA
TO THE OSCE

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ENGLISH only

STATEMENT

by the Delegation of the Republic of Moldova
at the OSCE Permanent Council meeting on 13 January 2005
In response to the Address of H.E. Minister D. Rupel

Mr. Chairman,

Allow me to join the previous speakers in warmly welcoming H.E. Minister Dimitrij Rupel to the first meeting of the Permanent Council under the Slovenian Chairmanship and wish him every success in handling this responsible task. I would also like to thank the distinguished Minister for his statement outlining the Chairmanship's priorities for 2005.

Undoubtedly, the OSCE is passing through a difficult moment of transformation and adaptation to the new realities. Nevertheless, we are confident that objectives set by the political leadership of the Organisation for the current year, will be successfully fulfilled. Let me stress in this context that the Republic of Moldova is committed to cooperate with the Slovenian Chairmanship and all OSCE partners in order to prove that meaningful results can be achieved when due political will is manifested.

Mr. Chairman,

Notwithstanding other challenges facing the OSCE community, let me underline that the resolution of the conflicts in the OSCE area should continue to remain the biggest endeavour of this Organisation. We welcome the intention of the new Chairmanship to be actively involved in the settlement of the conflict in the eastern regions of Moldova and believe that this approach will help us to identify a solution for the transnistrian issue. At the same time, I would like to stress again the firm position of the Moldovan authorities that the process will move forward if all parties already involved share a fundamental settlement goal: districts from the left bank of the Nistru river are an integral part of the Republic of Moldova.

Besides, we continue to believe that new dynamics would be brought to the process with the inclusion of additional interested partners, in particular the European Union and the United States of America, that could contribute to its success by many different means. Guided by the same logic and in an effort to consolidate the stability on a broader regional scale, the Moldovan President initiated last year consultations on a Declaration on the Stability and Security for the Republic of Moldova that we hope to see endorsed in 2005.

Mr. Chairman,

This appeal to produce a positive change in the settlement mechanism is not a groundless request. This Delegation has been systematically informing the Permanent Council and other OSCE fora about the deterioration of the situation in the eastern regions of Moldova that is regrettably persisting. The sacred notion - respect for human rights - is simply unthinkable in relation to the transnistrian region. The entire population, especially children, their parents and teachers from the Moldovan schools and the representatives of the opposition are continuously harassed by the criminal regime. In the context of the upcoming elections in the Republic of Moldova (6 March 2005), we express our hope that the international community already invited by the Moldovan authorities to monitor the elections, would assist us in ensuring the electoral right for the population from the eastern regions of the country.

The free movement in the Security Zone continues to be hindered by the paramilitary groups and the work of the Joint Control Commission is blocked. The illegal privatisation is going on in the region while the property of the Moldovan railway forcefully taken last summer, remains under the control of the transnistrian leaders. The situation at the transnistrian segment of the Moldovan-Ukrainian border has not been improved: according to our information more than 17000 unauthorized carriages have crossed the border since August 2004.

At the same time, we would like to reiterate that an international assessment of the stocks of armament in the possession of the paramilitary formations is long overdue, and a particular attention should be attributed to the unauthorised activities, including military exercises, taking place on the military airport in Tiraspol.

Mr. Minister,

We do invite you to travel to Moldova as early as possible in the new year and see for yourself the proof of these and other outrageous facts and practices that the people of Moldova continue to endure because of the absurd ambitions of the criminal Tiraspol regime. We are requesting your assistance in changing this deplorable status-quo and consider that the current settlement mechanism proved incapable of producing this change. Let me reiterate that we are open to any proposals, ideas or relevant personnel appointments that you might deem appropriate while attaining our common objective.

Mr. Chairman,

Yet another important task that you have unfortunately inherited from many previous Chairmanships, is the necessity to ensure the withdrawal of the Russian troops from the Moldovan territory in conformity with the Istanbul Summit commitments. As stated by the authorities of the Republic of Moldova, there has never been and never would be an expressed consent regarding the presence of the Russian forces on the territory of the Republic of Moldova. We express our hope that the withdrawal process would be completed without delay and in a transparent manner.

Finally, Mr. Minister, I would like to reiterate our wishes of success and to assure you of our readiness to continue the fruitful co-operation already established with the Slovenian Delegation here in Vienna.

Thank you.