



PERMANENT DELEGATION
OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA
TO THE OSCE

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STATEMENT

by the Delegation of the Republic of Moldova
at the OSCE Permanent Council Meeting
16 December 2004

*Agenda item: Report to the Permanent Council
by the Representative on Freedom of the Media*

Mr. Chairman,

Let me warmly welcome Mr. Miklos Haraszti and thank him for the report that also contained his conclusions on the assessment visit conducted in Moldova on 18-21 October 2004.

The visit took place at the invitation of the Moldovan Government and the OSCE Mission to Moldova. Colleagues would recall that during the Ambassadors' visit to my country last June, President Vladimir Voronin asked for an increased involvement of the OSCE into the media issues in Moldova and invited your proposals and recommendations in order to improve the existing practices in conformity with the norms of the democratic society.

The conclusions of the assessment visit formulated by the Representative, would be duly examined by all concerned authorities. It is worth mentioning, that they reflect a broad spectrum of topics analysed during the visit in cooperation with the governmental officials, representatives of the political opposition and the Moldovan civil society.

I would like to stress just a couple of items that seem to us pertinent at this stage.

Indeed, without much publicity, Moldova has become one of the few countries in the world that had decriminalised libel. In our own turn, we would ask the Representative to mediatise this fact as broadly as possible, given the efforts that his Office is undertaking to make it general practice among the OSCE participating states.

With reference to the transformation of the “Teleradio-Moldova” from state broadcaster into a public service company, let me mention that essentially a labour dispute motivated the journalists’ protests earlier this year. The Moldovan authorities are hopeful that the established Conciliation Committee of the “Teleradio Moldova” would find a compromise through negotiations.

Having noted that a part of the Representative’s report is dedicated to the media situation in the transnistrian region of the Republic of Moldova, I would like to reiterate that the level of intimidation and terror exercised by the exponents of the criminal regime on the representatives of mass-media and the civil society in general, makes the existence of free and competent media in the region impossible. We are not at all surprised that the Tiraspol administration, invoking an absurd comment from the local security structures, did not allow Mr. Haraszti to travel to the region in order to gain information on the ground. We regret again, as we did on numerous occasions, that yet another high-ranking OSCE representative could not visit a part of the Republic of Moldova on a mission to assist the country in such an important field. Taking this opportunity, I would like to appeal to the Representative to help us identify the modalities of supporting the remaining few independent journalists from the eastern regions of Moldova as well as to influence the obstructionist stance of the Transnistrian leaders on freedom of the media.

In conclusion, let me underline that the Republic of Moldova is committed to multi-faceted cooperation with the Office of the Representative on Freedom of the Media. We consider that such close interaction would significantly facilitate the process of democratization of the Moldovan society in general and the sphere of mass-media, in particular.

We wish Mr. Haraszti and his team success in all future endeavours.

Thank you.