



**PERMANENT DELEGATION
OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA
TO THE OSCE**

**Statement
By the Delegation of the Republic of Moldova
at the OSCE Permanent Council meeting
25 October 2006**

Mr. Chairman,

I would like to inform you that on 17th and 18th of October 2006, in Odessa, took place the consultations of the mediators from the OSCE, Ukraine and Russian Federation and observers from the United States and the European Union with the Delegation of the Republic of Moldova and representatives of Tiraspol regime. Though, since 28 of February the political dialog on conflict settlement has stopped in lack of negotiations in the Five-Plus-Two format, the Moldovan Authorities has continued the intense consultations with all involved actors. In Odessa too the Moldovan side has insisted on the need to resume without delay the negotiations in the Five-Plus-Two format. We are satisfied by the fact that mediators and observers support the Chisinau position on the final scope of the negotiation process – a peaceful settlement of the conflict on the basis of elaboration of the legal status for Transnistrian region providing the observance of the principle of Moldova's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

The Moldovan Delegation has reiterated its support for the Ukrainian settlement plan, as well as the documents adopted by the Moldovan Parliament in summer 2005. In this context, we would like to mention the continuous position of the mediators and observers for maintaining the agenda of negotiations settled by the previous rounds in the Five-Plus-Two format.

With reference to the implementation of the provisions set out in the Joint Statement of Moldovan and Ukrainian Prime Ministers of 30 December 2005 as well as the EUBAM activity, the Moldovan Delegation has presented the relevant statistical data, which proves the unimpeded import-export operations of the economic agents from the transnistrian region. Both the current customs regime and the EUBAM have proved their effectiveness.

Mr. Chairman,

The consultations of mediators and observers with the Tiraspol's representatives revealed the impossibility for resumption of the negotiations in the Five-Plus-Two format at this moment, as well as the necessity for continuation of the consultations in this respect. We express our regret that these consultations does not lead to the resumption of the Five-Plus-Two negotiations talks due to the counterproductive and inflexible position of Tiraspol, which conditioned its return to the negotiation process with signing of the so-called transit protocol aimed to abolish the legal customs regime on the Moldovan-Ukrainian border.

In this regard, the Moldovan side reiterates that the customs regime on the Moldovan-Ukrainian border is a matter of the bilateral legal framework of the sovereign states Republic of Moldova and Ukraine. We will not accept the attempts to introduce this issue on the agenda of the Five-Plus-Two talks. Most of participants in the settlement process are of the same position.

We deeply regret that the settlement process is continuously threatened by the obstructionist position of Tiraspol regime. We consider that the involved actors must discourage such attitude of the separatist regime. In this regard, the consolidated efforts are needed to unblock the negotiation process and to determine Tiraspol to return to the negotiations.

Mr. Chairman,

The Moldovan Authorities restate their availability for a constructive and result oriented negotiations on the issues of democratization and demilitarization of the region, as well as the elaboration of the legal status of the Transnistrian region with due respect to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Moldova.

At the same time, we call again on the Russian Federation to resume the withdrawal of its forces from the territory of the Republic of Moldova in fulfillment of the relevant commitments undertaking at the OSCE Istanbul Summit of 1999. The withdrawal would serve a positive political signal for the negotiation process and would constitute an important step toward resolution of the Transnistrian conflict.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman