



**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, Vienna, 23 September 2004
(Situation in the Transnistrian region of Moldova)

Mr. Chairman,

We saw no improvement on the school situation in the eastern region of Moldova throughout last week. More than 1000 children can not start the school year, while their parents are threatened with arrest if they continue resistance to the criminal actions of the despotic Tiraspol regime.

It is even more regrettable as all three mediators have undertaken some joint coordinated actions in order to motivate the Transnistrian administration to change the aggressive pattern of behaviour. We believe that conclusions need to be made now by the mediators themselves, about the prospects and the efficiency of the five-sided format for the political negotiations, that is being desperately called for by everybody, with no end-result or any time-frame agreed.

Three months after the seizure of the schools, the Moldovan authorities are still trying to solve the problem peacefully. Teachers and students throughout the country decided to proclaim 28 September 2004 the Day of Protest and Solidarity in the Republic of Moldova. Meetings would be organised at each educational establishment in order to draw the attention of the international community upon the violation of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the Transnistrian region of Moldova, where children have become the hostages of a criminal regime.

Mr. Chairman,

The situation at the Transnistrian sector of the Moldovan-Ukrainian border has not improved. An international involvement into this urgent issue is long overdue. We are looking forward to participating in the next round of the EU-Moldova-Ukraine trilateral talks to be hosted by the European Commission in

October. We hope the results would assist us to speed up the dispatching of an OSCE-EU border monitoring mission on the ground. At the same time, we would like to hope that bilateral consultations that we are hosting in Chisinau these days would help restore the principle both countries pledged to cherish in their relationship: respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity.

We appeal to all OSCE partners to help us fight smuggling, stop illegal practices of the criminal regime and accept merchandise only with the central Moldovan customs seals. In this particular context, my authorities asked me to thank the representatives of the Netherlands, while the same message is being conveyed bilaterally, for the principled attitude displayed by that country in terms of strict adherence to the international customs norms. While expecting the signature of the Moldova-EU Steel double-checking Agreement to be concluded next month, we hope to extend the list of products subject to the same control provisions.

Mr. Chairman,

This Delegation will continue to inform the Council on the developments in all areas that constitute elements of the conflict settlement process. Let me also express our gratitude to those who do not remain indifferent.

Thank you.