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ENGLISH only

Permanent Mission of Ukraine
to the International Organizations in Vienna

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF UKRAINE

As delivered by Ambassador Yurii Vitrenko, Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the International Organizations in Vienna

1585th meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council

Agenda Item 5, "Report by the Head of the OSCE Mission to Moldova"

(12 November 2026)

Mr. Chairperson,

We welcome Head of Mission Christopher Smith and thank him for his report. We appreciate that the report's language has become more precise and more accurately reflects the realities on the ground. We particularly note the release on 18 July of Emilian Ceban and Evghenii Pancioha, detained since 2022 and 2018 respectively, and the medical monitoring visit to four detainees on the left bank in September.

Ukraine fully supports the Mission's mandate, which remains essential for a comprehensive, peaceful and sustainable settlement of the Transdniestrian conflict, based on the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Moldova within its internationally recognized borders.

Mr. Chairperson,

We welcome the 1+1 meeting of the Chief Negotiators on 24 September and the seven Working Group meetings facilitated by the Mission, and commend the Mission, the Swiss Chairpersonship and Ambassador Lenk for their engagement. As the report rightly stresses, this momentum must now be translated into results, in particular the regulatory acts for the Vehicle Registration Offices and adequate premises for the Latin-script schools in Ribnita and Grigoriopol.

We support the Mission's efforts to facilitate dialogue on the dispute over tax and customs exemptions, and welcome Moldova's new Media Law and anti-SLAPP legislation, while sharing the Mission's concern over the three-year entry ban on journalists of the outlet Glossa.

Mr. Chairperson,

The Mission recorded four UAV incidents in the Security Zone, compared to none in the past, as well as a marked increase in crashes and explosions inside

Moldova. Its independent monitoring is particularly valuable when disagreement within the Joint Military Command prevents the deployment of military observers. We are concerned that the Joint Control Commission has been unable to adopt protocols since 29 May 2025, that on 17 August the Mission was denied access to the Russian and Transdniestrian peacekeeping units, and that visits to the left bank remain subject to pre-notification, which the Mission itself regards as a limitation on its unrestricted access. This requirement should be lifted.

The Mission reports no developments on the removal and destruction of Russian ammunition and armaments under Permanent Council Decision No. 329. Ukraine calls on Russia to fulfil its commitments and withdraw its forces and ammunition from Moldovan territory.

Mr. Chairperson,

Ukraine remains a committed partner in the Transdniestrian settlement process and will continue to support a settlement grounded in Moldova's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.