



**STATEMENT BY THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
SERBIA AMBASSADOR VUK ŽUGIĆ AT THE 999th MEETING
OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

8 May 2014

Mr. Chairperson,

I would like to warmly welcome H.E. Ms. Natalia Gherman, Deputy Prime-minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration of the Republic of Moldova back to the Permanent Council and thank her for her comprehensive address.

Serbia strongly supports the efforts in pursuing a comprehensive, just and viable resolution of the Transnistrian conflict exclusively through negotiations, on the basis of sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Moldova with a special status for Transnistria.

We encourage the sides to continue building on the progress achieved so far within the "5+2" format in accordance with the previously agreed documents, including the Ministerial statements from Dublin and Kyiv. It is important to fully implement the decisions agreed in the negotiations and to work in good faith towards achieving solutions on all outstanding issues and registering tangible progress in the negotiations on all three baskets of the agreed agenda.

Intensifying efforts with regard to confidence- and security-building measures is one of the important elements for the progress in the negotiations. We support and look forward to the resumption of the dialogue between the sides, within the expert's working groups, as well as within the previously established channels such as meetings of the leaders and other participants during traditionally held conferences on confidence building measures, the so-called CBM "Bavaria" conferences.

Mr. Chairperson,

We take this opportunity to reiterate the important role OSCE plays as a mediator within the "5+2" format and, in more general terms, as a

platform for dialogue to discuss the broad range of issues regarding the settlement of the Transnistrian conflict. In this regard, it is important to note that the OSCE offers its rich toolbox which can contribute to the resolution of the conflict in the most comprehensive manner. We value the work of the OSCE Mission to Moldova and underline the added-value it can provide to the process if allowed to perform its mandate in full and unimpeded.

In accordance with his mandate, Special Representative of the current Swiss and future Serbian Chairmanship Ambassador Bogojevic, in coordination with the Secretariat and the OSCE Mission to Moldova, continues to invest tireless efforts in bringing about positive steps in the process. Bearing in mind overall difficult circumstances we are dealing with at the moment, we appeal to all participants for understanding and constructiveness in preparation for the next rounds of negotiations. It is of vital importance to keep this process on track and redouble the efforts in order to preserve and build upon the achieved.

Let me reiterate once again the commitment of Serbia, as the future CiO, to the settlement of the Transnistrian conflict solely through peaceful means and on the agreed basis. During next year, we will spare no efforts in advancing the process with a view to creating a new momentum towards a more meaningful progress in the negotiations.

In conclusion, we wish you Madam Minister all the best in your future endeavours.

Thank you Mr. Chairperson.