

Canadian Delegation to the  
Organization for Security & Cooperation  
in Europe



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Délégation du Canada auprès de  
l'Organisation pour la sécurité et la coopération  
en Europe

**DELEGATION OF CANADA TO THE OSCE  
STATEMENT BY YVES BEAULIEU, CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES  
IN RESPONSE TO AMBASSADOR REMLER, HEAD OF THE OSCE MISSION  
IN MOLDOVA AND ON THE SITUATION IN MOLDOVA  
758<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE PERMANENT COUNCIL  
23 APRIL 2009**

Thank you Madame Chairperson,

We would like to join other in warmly welcoming Ambassador Remler to the Permanent Council. We are grateful for this timely and informative report. And as the situation in Moldova is rapidly evolving, we are also very appreciative of the spot reports released by your Mission.

The Mission's views and analysis of unfolding events in Moldova are much welcomed and useful for our common and shared understanding of the prevailing situation.

We are pleased by the quality and impartial monitoring and reporting provided by the Mission, related to both the election and its aftermath and on the Transnistria issue.

Madame Chairperson,

Canada has observed with concern the situation in Moldova in the aftermath of the elections on April 5th, in particular reports of mistreatment and intimidation of opposition members, students and the media.

As reported recently by the OSCE's Representative on Freedom of the Media and by the OSCE Mission to Moldova, we are troubled by reports of arrest and detention of journalists and of control of the Internet. It is also regrettable that some foreign media have been refused or revoked access to Moldova to report from within the country.

We hope that Moldovan authorities will make all possible efforts to support conciliation. Peaceful demonstrators should not be subject of prosecution or any form of sanctions. We are encouraged that a vast number of detainees were released rapidly.

We urge Moldovan authorities to investigate allegations of mistreatment and to restore and ensure freedom of expression and of the media while also allowing international observers to monitor the situation and to have free access to detainees.

Canada also took note of the recent OSCE Election Observation Mission preliminary findings and conclusions of the 5 April parliamentary election in Moldova.

We are encouraged that the Election was held in line with many international commitments and note the positive aspects highlighted by the report.

We are however worried over the apparent lack of public confidence in the electoral process, a critical aspect for any democratic state. As a measure to strengthen confidence, we hope that Moldovan authorities will address issues surrounding the voters list.

We are also concerned by the situation relative to the campaign environment and the Media, notably reports of intimidation, abuse of administrative resources, preferential treatment by the public broadcaster and attempts to control the Media.

We hope that Moldovan authorities will continue to work with the OSCE, the international community and various actors within Moldova, including NGOs, to address shortcomings with the aim of strengthening the rule of law in the Country.

Madame Chairperson,

Canada is worried by the apparent tensions between Moldova and Romania following the demonstrations. We urge all parties to remain calm and to practice restraint.

We call on Moldova to respect its obligations undertaken with the OSCE.

We urge the governments of Moldova and Romania to work together in good faith to resolve outstanding issues, to refrain from further actions which might exacerbate the situation and harm their bilateral relations.

Canada believes that Transnistria and all “frozen conflicts” stand the best chance of resolution through multilateral efforts, and especially those of the OSCE, and in the case of Transnistria, the European Union. It is critical that the current situation in Moldova does not further affect that stability and security in the region.

To conclude, let us reaffirm our full support to the OSCE Mission to Moldova and Ambassador Remler and wish them success in the continuation of their important work.

Thank you