



Brussels, 2 December 2005  
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**Remarks of Javier SOLANA,  
EU High Representative for the CFSP,  
AT THE LAUNCH OF THE EU BORDER  
MISSION FOR MOLDOVA – UKRAINE**

**ODESSA, 30 NOVEMBER 2005**

- On 2 June, the Presidents of Ukraine and Moldova signed a joint letter addressed to President Barroso and to me, requesting assistance on the Ukrainian – Moldovan border, including the Transnistrian segment. They asked also for international monitoring of the border.
- Their request underlined the strong European values of Ukraine and Moldova: their wish to improve the quality of controls on their common border, and to bring transparency to it. This is particularly significant in relation to our joint efforts to find a viable settlement to the Transnistrian conflict. It is a major confidence-building measure.
- The EU was quick to give a positive answer. An EU Fact-Finding Mission, headed by the EUSR for Moldova, was sent in late August. It found that an engagement by the EU was not only feasible, but was backed by the strong political commitment of both governments.
- It is only six months since the request was made. Today we are here in Odessa, marking the launch of new milestone in our European partnership. But it is a milestone, not the end station. Now the real work starts. The degree of success will be a test case for our co-operation, for a closer partnership.
- The EU has sent you high level customs and border professionals. The Team of the EUSR for Moldova has also been enhanced by top-level diplomats and experts, with General Banfi, Head of the Border Mission, playing a co-ordinating role as Senior Political Adviser to the EUSR.
- The decisive factor is not what the EU does, but what we do together. Our border engagement is here to help you in many crucial fields -- from technical assistance to deep political co-operation and from making your fight against corruption a success to building the preconditions for a settlement on the future status of Transnistria.
- I am confident of our success. We share a strong political commitment. We can be proud that we have got as far as we have today. The EU looks forward to working with the governments of Ukraine and Moldova – at all levels – to achieve our shared aims and values on this border, and to bring sustainable stability to the region. I am personally committed to these aims and will work closely with the leaders of both countries to ensure their realisation.

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FOR FURTHER DETAILS:

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