

*“Protracted Conflicts in the OSCE Region:  
Innovative Approaches for Co-operation in the Conflict Zones”  
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# CONVENTIONAL ARMS CONTROL AND MILITARY CONFIDENCE- AND SECURITY- BUILDING MEASURES IN HANDLING CURRENT PROTRACTED CONFLICTS: THE TRANSDNIESTRIAN CASE



*Oleksandr Tytarchuk,  
East European Security Research Initiative Foundation  
Kyiv, Ukraine*

## **Main goals of CAC and CSBMs in handling protracted conflicts**

- **Sufficient verification and information exchange;**
- **Monitoring and control;**
- **Demilitarization;**
- **Transparency;**
- **Stabilization;**
- **Host state consent;**
- **Risk reduction & assessment;**
- **Human security;**
- **Prevention;**
- **Comprehensive engagement.**

# A web of interlocking instruments and mechanisms

- CFE Treaty, Open Skies Treaty and Vienna Document 2011;
- Bilateral agreements on additional CSBMs and military contacts (VD, Chapter X);
- Other multilateral and bilateral arrangements (JCC, SZ, JPKF, CBM WGs, UA MOs);
- OSCE documents and the FSC decisions related to the area of non-proliferation, disarmament, arms control and CSBMs (SALW, SCA, CAT, GEMI, CoC, NSSMs);
- Arms transferring in the region (UNRCA, WAEI, EUAR, ATTAR);
- CBM Working Groups within “5+2” Format;
- OSCE institutions and field presences;
- The European integration and Euro-Atlantic cooperation mechanisms (AA, CSDP, SSR, EUBAM, ATTOP, PfPP, IPAP, DCB);
- Regional initiatives (GUAM).

# Current strengths

- **Inclusiveness**, high level of **co-operative transparency** and sustainability;
- Possibility to conduct **verification activities** on the territory of the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, including in regions close to the border of Moldova/Transdnistria;
- **Exchange of relevant information**, possibility for **monitoring situation** in the Security Zone and the whole Transdnistrian region;
- **Observation of the military activities** below the existing thresholds starting from the tactical level;
- **Bilateral and voluntary basis** for application;
- Conducting/receiving **additional inspections**, including out-of-quota ones;
- Possible **extraordinary observation measures** upon the request of the OSCE and other relevant international organizations;
- **Host-nation consent** approach;
- Cooperation on **regional and sub-regional levels**;
- Support to **military contacts**.

# Existing opportunities

- Resumption of the work of the **“5+2” format** and repeatedly declared interest to CBMs;
- **Shift in Ukraine’s strategic approach** towards the Transdnistriean conflict due its direct threat to the national security;
- **Termination** of the Ukraine-Russia **military-technical cooperation**;
- **Activation** of the Ukraine-Moldova **bilateral relations**;
- **Active involvement** of **the OSCE Mission to Moldova**;
- **Extensive experience** of conducting CAC and CSBMs in conflict area **gained in Ukraine**;
- Further implementation of the **EU Association Agreements** in Moldova and Ukraine as well as strengthening **cooperation with NATO**;
- Revitalizing **sub-regional multilateral formats** of international cooperation.

# Innovative criteria

- **Smart intrusiveness;**
- **Openness and initiative;**
- **Cooperative and impartial assessment;**
- **Sustainability;**
- **Proven effectiveness;**
- **Continuity of application;**
- **Comprehensive aggregation;**
- **Self-sufficiency;**
- **Interconnectivity.**

# Proposed options and recommendations

## Regional level

### The CFE Treaty

- **Further application** of the existing CFE Treaty provisions on the territory of the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine with focus on the areas close to the Transdniestrian region;
- **Maximum use of additional inspections**, including out-of-quota inspections within bilateral arrangements;

### The Vienna Document 2011

- Giving **priority for organizing voluntary visits** to dispel concerns and above-quota inspections hosted by Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova on both VD and bilateral agreements;
- Using **aerial survey** during specified area inspections in the areas close to the Transdniesrtian region, including within the framework of bilateral agreements.

# Proposed options and recommendations

## Regional level (Contd)

### The Open Skies Treaty

- Considering possibility for **the Republic of Moldova to become a party** to the Open Skies Treaty;
- Parties should continue monitoring of the border area with Transdniestrian region while executing **observation missions in Ukraine**;
- In case of aggravation, **extraordinary observation flights** could be conducted upon request of the OSCE bodies and other relevant international organizations.

# Proposed options and recommendations

## Other regional options

- **Cooperative analysis and evaluation** of the verification data with a view to enabling common appreciation of the facts on the ground, especially in the “gray” and border areas;
- **Broadening the scope of the Questionnaire on the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security;**
- **Focusing on SALW and CA stockpile management and security;**
- **Establishing the EU Assistance Mission** to Moldova supporting security sector reform and development process;
- **Deployment of the UN Assessment Mission** to security sector reform in the Republic of Moldova according to the UN Security Council Resolution on Security Sector Reform #2151 (2014);
- **Active involvement of the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine in the European Union’s Arms Trade Treaty Outreach Project, etc.**

# Proposed options and recommendations

## Specified options on sub-regional, multilateral and bilateral levels

- **Concluding a bilateral agreement between Ukraine and Moldova** on complementary sub-regional confidence-building measures;
- **Broadening the scope of the existing bilateral CSBMs' agreements** of the Republic of Moldova with other OSCE participating states;
- **Working group on pol-mil CBMs** should be created both within the framework of the negotiation process and in the JCC;
- **More coordination** needed between Moldovan, Russian and Transdnistrian representatives **to the JCC** as well as Ukrainian military observers and representatives of the OSCE Mission to Moldova;
- Based on the recent Ukrainian experience, **visits by the inspection teams to the JCC** should be practised in order to support transparency and maintain access to the SZ while conducting bilateral CSBMs hosted by the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine;
- Using **Track II initiatives** with the purpose of providing independent and impartial monitoring and analysis of security situation in the conflict area, etc.

# Proposed options and recommendations

## OSCE institutions and field activities

- **The OSCE Mission to Moldova** most probably will remain the only instrument of the international presence on the ground practically covering almost the whole area of the conflict and implementing tasks related to sub-regional CAC and CSBMs;
- **Extension of the current mandate** of the OSCE Mission to Moldova to monitor that the provisions of the CFE Treaty and VD are honored in the Transdnestrrian region;
- Establishment of clarification and verification mechanism /special inspections to be used by a **neutral actor** (e.g. OSCE Secretariat);
- Involving the potential of the OSCE Secretariat for conducting **comprehensive information analysis** of situation in the conflict areas being presented to the Security Committee and discussed at the FSC or joint FCS-PC meetings;
- Deployment of the **OSCE fact-finding and rapporteur missions** covering the whole area of the conflict pursuant to the provisions of the Helsinki Document 1992 (focus on military activities on the ground, safety conditions on storage sites, etc.);

# Proposed options and recommendations

## OSCE institutions and field activities (Contd)

- Sharing and using the experience of **the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine** on monitoring situation in the conflict zone in Eastern Ukraine to be applicable to the SZ;
- Organizing **close cooperation** between the OSCE Mission to Moldova and SMM while monitoring security developments in the border areas in Moldova and Ukraine respectively;
- **Sharing experience of the PCU** engagement in eliminating hazardous stocks, maintaining radiological safety, promoting concept of chemical safety and security, providing humanitarian assistance on the contact line in the conflict area, conducting environmental assessment in the conflict zone, enhancing border security, supporting security sector reform and integrating former military personnel in civilian life;
- Establishing close cooperation and exchange of information (e.g. via the OSCE Secretariat) on possible illicit arms trafficking in/out of the region between the OSCE Mission to Moldova and **the EU Border Assistance Mission to Moldova and Ukraine.**

***Thank You for Your Time!***



*Oleksandr Tytarchuk, EESRI Foundation*

*<http://eesri.org/>*