Conclusion

The year in review saw progress toward normalization of Bosnia’s security framework in operational terms, albeit in an environment of political deadlock for much of the year. The EUPM and EUFOR Althea play a vital role in BiH as they continue to face the challenge of successfully transferring responsibilities to the government and promoting reform while significant political tensions persist. In November, the UN Security Council extended authorization of EUFOR Althea for one year, stressing that responsibility for further peace consolidation lies with BiH political authorities.

Box 3.1 Moldova-Transdniestria

Beyond Bosnia and Kosovo, the only remaining military peace operation in southeastern Europe is the Joint Control Commission Peacekeeping Force (JCC), a mission deployed to Moldova by the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) after the eastern region of Transdniestria attempted to secede in the early 1990s. The JCC is an unusual mix of Russian, Transdniestrian, and Moldovan forces (plus some Ukrainian observers) and operates alongside a separate civilian presence from the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE).

Although Moldova has pressed for the peacekeeping operation to be wound down, with some progress occurring in talks between the Moldovan and Transdniestrian authorities in 2011, the JCC continues to operate. Conversely, calls by Transdniestria for a significant expansion of the Russian presence in the force (which currently stands at fewer than 500 personnel) have also gone unanswered.

In September it was announced that official negotiations, which were suspended in 2006, would resume in the so-called 5+2 format, which brings together Moldova and Transdniestria as parties to the conflict; Russia, Ukraine, and the OSCE as mediators; and the European Union and the United States as observers. While the announcement was welcomed as a promising first step, the unchanged positions of both Moldova and Transdniestria indicate that much work remains before a permanent settlement to this conflict can be reached.

Note