



EUROPEAN UNION

**OSCE Permanent Council N°1166
Vienna, 30 November 2017**

**EU Statement on 5+2 talks on the Transnistrian Settlement
Process in Vienna 27-28 November**

The European Union welcomes the meeting of the “Permanent Conference for Political Questions in the Framework of the Negotiating Process on the Transnistrian Settlement” (“5+2” format) that took place on 27 and 28 November in Vienna. As an observer in this platform, we reiterate our strong support for a comprehensive, peaceful and sustainable settlement of the Transnistrian conflict based on the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Moldova within its internationally recognized borders, with a special status for Transnistria.

The progress achieved in the dialogue between the Sides, in particular the signing of the four Protocols between the chief negotiators last week, as well as the opening of the bridge Gura Bicului-Bychok have established a positive background for the opening negotiations in Vienna. We believe this “5+2” meeting represents an important chapter in the negotiations, solidifying, as reflected in its concluding document, the recent agreements on several social and economic issues. The results achieved in this and last year demonstrate that a small-step strategy aiming to bring about solutions that improve daily life of the population on both banks of the river is the right approach in this conflict settlement process.

We welcome the commitment of the Sides to make efforts in order to resolve the other priority issues of the negotiating process as set out in the Berlin Protocol agreed upon during the German Chairmanship 2016, and the “Package of Eight”, and expect that they live up to the set timelines.

We commend the political will of both Sides and the collective effort by all international partners, which proved that progress is possible and that the OSCE’s role in facilitating resolution of conflicts remains relevant. The successful efforts

undertaken by the Chairmanship-in-Office and the strong commitment of its Special Representative for the Transdniestrian Settlement Process, Ambassador Wolf-Dietrich Heim, as well as of the OSCE Mission to Moldova have contributed to this substantive progress.

We look forward to continue this positive trend under the incoming Italian chairmanship in close cooperation with the Mission, and hope for continuity in engagement of all Sides and international partners as seen in 2016 and 2017.

The Candidate Countries the FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA*, MONTENEGRO*, SERBIA* and ALBANIA*, the Country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and Potential Candidate BOSNIA and HERZEGOVINA, and the EFTA countries LIECHTENSTEIN and NORWAY, members of the European Economic Area, as well as GEORGIA and ANDORRA align themselves with this statement.

* The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Albania continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.