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**STATEMENT BY
THE EUROPEAN UNION AT THE 1519th MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

8 May 2025

**In response to the report by the Head of the OSCE Mission to Moldova,
Ambassador Kelly Keiderling**

Madam Ambassador, the European Union thanks you for your report, the last one during your mandate, in a context marked by the grave repercussions experienced by the Republic of Moldova of Russia's unjustifiable war of aggression against Ukraine .

At the head of your Mission, you have demonstrated quick thinking and composure, and have ensured that the Mission's activities continue despite budgetary constraints and political tensions. We appreciate the quality of the Mission's reports, its manifold contributions to the maintenance of dialogue between the two banks of the Dniester/Nistru River, its activities in the politico-military sphere and its projects, always focused on promoting gender equality. We thank you most warmly for your work and that of your teams.

We would like to see your Mission given an annual mandate, an adequate unified budget and guarantees of free movement for its members. We urge those who are standing in the way of this to return to compliance with the relevant practices and rules.¹

The European Union condemns all attempts by Russia and its accomplices to destabilize the country, including through disinformation and energy blackmail, which affects the left bank of the Dniester/Nistru in particular. It emphasizes its support for a peaceful, prosperous and resilient Republic of Moldova through the adoption on 11 March of a new programme worth 1.9 billion euros. It will also continue to support the authorities in the Republic of Moldova on its accession path via the European Peace Facility, the EU Partnership Mission and the Growth Plan for the country. It likewise supports constructive policies and initiatives aimed at bringing the populations on both banks of the Dniester/Nistru closer together economically and socially.

It reaffirms its determination to support the Republic of Moldova in defending its sovereignty and territorial integrity in accordance with the country's constitution. It reiterates its support for a peaceful, comprehensive and enduring settlement of the Transdnestrian conflict based on respect for the territorial integrity and sovereignty of the Republic of Moldova within its internationally recognized borders, with a special status for Transdnestria. It is crucial that all parties in the "5+2" format continue to respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Moldova.

¹ Brussels Ministerial Council Decision No. 18/06

We strongly condemn Russia's numerous violations of the Republic of Moldova's airspace in connection with the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine.

In the absence of meetings in the "5+2" format, the European Union welcomes the continued discussions among the Chief Negotiators and within the Working Groups in the "1+1" format. We encourage the authorities in Chişinău and Tiraspol to continue their dialogue and to maintain calm while finding specific solutions to the challenges faced by the populations on either side of the Dniester/Nistru.

We regret the lack of progress on the complete and unconditional withdrawal of Russian military forces and equipment from the territory of the Republic of Moldova, which applies to the Operative Group of Russian Forces, and likewise the lack of transparency regarding Russian troop movements. We recall that the commitments agreed upon at the OSCE Istanbul Summit in 1999 provide for the withdrawal of Russian military forces and equipment stationed on the territory of the Republic of Moldova without the host country's consent. This decision was made with the support of Russia, which should thus implement it without delay.

Similarly, we recall the international commitments undertaken by Russia to destroy the stockpiles of arms and ammunition at the depot in Cobasna, which constitute a serious threat for the civilian population of the region and for the environment, and urge Russia to carry out this operation without further delay. The OSCE has a mandate and the means to contribute to the withdrawal or destruction of Russian arms and ammunition from the Transdnistrian region, and to safeguard the transparency and international verification of such operations.

We are committed to respect for human rights and to the full implementation of the package of confidence-building measures, including the measures regarding Latin-script schools in the Transdnistrian region. The human rights situation in the Transdnistrian region remains alarming. We urge the authorities in Tiraspol to release all political prisoners and stop persecuting and obstructing the freedom of movement and expression of human rights defenders, political activists and journalists.

To conclude, the European Union will continue to support the OSCE Mission to the Republic of Moldova, just as it supports the beneficial reforms for all of the country's citizens undertaken by the Government in Chişinău. We thank Ambassador Keiderling and her capable team once again for their work during these months and wish them every success in their future activities.

Albania, Andorra, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Montenegro, North Macedonia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine align themselves with this statement.