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STATEMENT BY THE EUROPEAN UNION AT THE 1004th MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL

Vienna, 12 June 2014

Regarding the “5+2” talks

The European Union takes note of the discussions held in the “5+2” format on 5 and 6 June in Vienna. The European Union remains highly committed to the continuation, deepening and conclusion of the discussions in this format designed to formulate a settlement to the Transdniestrian conflict that respects the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Moldova. The European Union’s position was presented in detail at the 1002nd Permanent Council meeting on 29 May 2014, in response to the Head of the OSCE Mission to Moldova, Her Excellency Ambassador Jennifer Brush. We reaffirm the points made on that occasion. We hope that the next meeting, which is scheduled to take place in Vienna on 17 and 18 July 2014, will achieve tangible progress on substantive issues.

Amongst our concerns expressed two weeks ago, there were several sensitive issues that need to be addressed urgently, in particular the education of children at Latin-script schools in the Transdniestrian region. We call on the participants in the discussions to take advantage of the working group meetings and the contacts between Chişinău and Tiraspol to find appropriate solutions, in the interests of the children, enabling them to study in their language of choice. The European Union calls for the necessary measures to be identified to ensure that these schools can operate in a normal and sustainable manner.

The candidate countries the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia¹, Montenegro¹, and Iceland², the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate countries Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina, the members of the European Free Trade Association Liechtenstein and Norway, as well as Georgia, Andorra and Monaco, align themselves with this statement.

1 The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Montenegro continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

2 Iceland continues to be a member of the European Free Trade Association.