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The Netherlands Presidency of the European Union

Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union on the continuing deterioration of the situation in Moldova

(published in Brussels and The Hague on 26 August 2004)

The European Union, in close coordination with the United States, is following with great concern the continuing deterioration of the situation in Moldova. The European Union is particularly concerned about the ongoing campaign of the self-proclaimed authorities of Transnistria in closing by force Latin-script schools.

The actions of the Transnistrian authorities are part of a larger pattern of obstructionism in both the political process and regarding the removal of Russian military equipment from Moldova. For this reason the European Union and United States imposed visa restrictions against seventeen members of the Transnistrian leadership on 27 February 2003. In response to the recent action by the Transnistrian leadership in the region the European Union, in close cooperation with the United States, has decided to impose visa restrictions against an additional ten officials from Transnistria, who are directly responsible for the closing of Latin-script schools.