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STATEMENT BY THE EUROPEAN UNION AT THE 1104th MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL

9 June 2016

Regarding the resumption of negotiations in the “5+2” format

The European Union welcomes the resumption of negotiations in the “5+2” format on the Transdniestrian conflict. After the suspension of talks for the last two years, the meeting of the Permanent Conference on Political Issues in the Framework of the Negotiation Process for the Transdniestrian Settlement on 2 and 3 June in Berlin has given new stimulus to the process.

The European Union attaches great importance to the continuation and completion of the talks in the “5+2” format in accordance with its mandate. We support a peaceful and comprehensive settlement of the Transdniestrian conflict with respect for the territorial integrity and sovereignty of the Republic of Moldova and a special status for the Transdniestrian region.

The “5+2” format is the only platform guaranteeing the transparency and legitimacy of a lasting solution, which is vital to the stability and security of the region and which would have concrete benefits for the Republic of Moldova including the Transdniestrian region.

In that context, we welcome the signing in Berlin of a Protocol reconfirming the commitment of the parties to meet regularly in expert working groups and at the level of political representatives before the informal conference on confidence-building measures taking place in Bavaria in July.

The European Union welcomes this positive spirit and the commitment by the parties to continue work on a number of specific issues, for example in the field of telecommunications, transport, protection of natural resources and education.

As an observer, the European Union offers its full support to these negotiations and urges the parties to demonstrate the political will required for them to respect their commitments. We welcome the unanimous statements by the mediators and observers on the need to reach a settlement of the conflict and hope that the next meetings in the “5+2” format will allow fundamental progress to be made in a political settlement of the Transdniestrian conflict.

Finally, the European Union would like to thank the Special Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office, Ambassador Meier-Klodt, for his positive role.

The candidate countries the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia¹, Montenegro¹, Serbia¹ and Albania¹, the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate country Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Free Trade Association countries and members of the European Economic Area Liechtenstein and Norway, as well as Georgia and San Marino, align themselves with this statement.

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