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STATEMENT BY THE EUROPEAN UNION AT THE THE 903rd MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL

Vienna, 1 March 2012

Regarding the meeting in the “5+2” format in Dublin

The European Union (EU) welcomes the holding of the first official meeting in the “5+2” format under the Irish Chairmanship in Dublin on 28 and 29 February.

We hope that the parties, the mediators and the observers will meet regularly in 2012 and that concrete progress in terms of substance can be made this year towards a settlement of the Transdniestrian conflict.

The European Union recalls that the “5+2” format is the only one capable of guaranteeing the transparency and legitimacy necessary for a lasting political solution. This should be based on respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Moldova.

With this in mind, the European Union calls on all the participants in the “5+2” format to act in a spirit of co-operation. The EU is determined to continue to play its full part in this respect, in particular by assisting the parties to the conflict in the negotiations. Lastly, the EU recalls that, once a comprehensive political agreement on the Transdniestrian conflict has been found, it will look into the most appropriate way of supporting its implementation on the ground.

The acceding country Croatia, the candidate countries the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro¹ and Iceland², the Stabilisation and Association Process countries and potential candidate countries Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia, the European Free Trade Association countries and members of the European Economic Area Liechtenstein and Norway, as well as Andorra and San Marino, align themselves with this statement.

1 Croatia, 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 and the European Economic Area.