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## **STATEMENT BY THE EUROPEAN UNION AT THE 1326th MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

29 July 2021

### **On the recent developments in the Republic of Moldova**

The European Union reiterates its support for a peaceful, comprehensive and lasting settlement of the Transdnestrian conflict on the basis of respect for the territorial integrity and sovereignty of the Republic of Moldova within its internationally recognized borders, with a special status for Transdnestria.

We remain very concerned about the deterioration of the human rights situation in the Transdnestrian region and emphasize the importance of respect for international standards and OSCE commitments as regards human rights and fundamental freedoms. In particular, we call for the immediate release of Ghenadie Ciorba, imprisoned merely for having exercised his fundamental freedoms, and of all other persons unjustly detained by the *de facto* authorities in Transdnestria, in particular Oleg Horjan, Serghei Mirovici and Adrian Glijin.

Moreover, we welcome the efforts and the proposal made by the Special Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office to hold a new meeting in the “5+2” format, the only mechanism for achieving a comprehensive and lasting settlement of the conflict. This would enable marked improvements to be made regarding respect for human rights and freedom of movement and the full implementation of the confidence-building measures agreed on in Berlin in 2016 and in Vienna in 2017 and reaffirmed in Rome in 2018, with full respect for the sovereignty of the Republic of Moldova within its internationally recognized borders. In that regard, we note with interest the stated willingness of President Maia Sandu to resume discussions within this framework.

The European Union remains shoulder to shoulder with the Republic of Moldova, and we shall continue to provide assistance, be it in the framework of the Eastern Partnership, the Association Agreement, the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area, the visa exemption regime or aid in overcoming the COVID-19 epidemic and its socio-economic consequences. The European Union will continue to make this aid contingent on concrete results of reform, with a view to bringing tangible benefits to the citizens of the Republic of Moldova.

The candidate countries the Republic of North Macedonia<sup>1</sup>, Montenegro<sup>1</sup>, Serbia<sup>1</sup> and Albania<sup>1</sup>, the European Free Trade Association countries and members of the European Economic Area Iceland and Norway, as well as Georgia, align themselves with this statement.

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