

PC.DEL/410/13
30 May 2013

ENGLISH
Original: FRENCH

STATEMENT BY THE EUROPEAN UNION AT THE 954th MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL

Vienna, 30 May 2013

Regarding the Odessa meeting and the “5+2” talks held on 23 and 24 May 2013

The European Union thanks the Ukrainian Chairmanship for convening the most recent round of “5+2” talks on the Transdniestrian settlement process on 23 and 24 May 2013 in Odessa.

The European Union remains deeply committed to continuing and completing talks in the “5+2” format, in accordance with the mandate of the latter, with full respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Moldova. We recall that the “5+2” format remains the only format capable of guaranteeing the transparency and legitimacy necessary for a lasting solution. We call on all of those involved to maintain their commitment and openness during the talks and to tackle without undue delay issues regarding security and the status of Transdniestria within the Republic of Moldova. These issues are also at the heart of many technical topics discussed in Odessa. In general, the European Union considers that technical issues should be discussed at expert level within the working groups on confidence-building measures, with the main task of the “5+2” being to move forward talks aimed at finding a peaceful settlement to the conflict.

The European Union takes due note of the decision of the parties to dismantle the industrial cable car over the Dniester between Rézina and Rybnitsa, whose dilapidated state poses a risk to the safety of local residents. We should like to view this wise decision as a confidence-building measure and a signal that there is a will to generally improve the security situation after the regrettable incidents of recent months. That said, the European Union emphasizes that confidence-building measures should be part of a general approach aiming for a political settlement to the conflict in all its dimensions. The European Union hopes that the next “5+2” talks, including those to be held on 16 and 17 July in Vienna, will see all participants encourage substantive progress in the political settlement of the Transdniestrian conflict.

The acceding country Croatia¹, the candidate countries the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia¹, Montenegro¹, Iceland² and Serbia¹, the countries of the Stabilisation and

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

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

Association Process and potential candidate countries Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina, the European Free Trade Association countries Liechtenstein and Norway, as well as Georgia, align themselves with this statement.