

PC.DEL/301/18  
16 March 2018

ENGLISH  
Original: FRENCH

## **STATEMENT BY THE EUROPEAN UNION AT THE 1179th MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

15 March 2018

### **In response to a current issue raised by the Republic of Moldova on 8 March**

The European Union supports a peaceful and comprehensive settlement to the Transdnestrian conflict based on respect for the territorial integrity and sovereignty of the Republic of Moldova within its internationally recognized borders and with a special status for Transdnestria.

We welcome the encouraging progress made since autumn 2017 through dialogue between the sides and we stress how important it is that the sides promptly implement the agreements reached through the negotiating process with the aim of settling the Transdnestrian conflict through the “5+2 format”.

In this context, we regret that the sides failed to reach an agreement on vehicle licence plates before 28 February, as had been foreseen in the Vienna Protocol of November 2017. We call on the sides to make use of upcoming meetings to reach swift decisions on the practical modalities for implementing the agreement on participation of Transdnestrian vehicles in international road traffic.

This would build confidence and would demonstrate the sides’ genuine commitment to settling the conflict. We also encourage the sides to pursue tangible advances on criminal justice matters and freedom of movement.

We reiterate our support for the OSCE Mission to Moldova and underscore the importance of continuing to receive regular updates on the situation in the security zone.

Finally, we hope that the negotiations will continue on an output-focused track and we welcome the planned visit to Moldova by the Special Representative of the Chairmanship Mr. Franco Frattini from 26 to 28 March.

The candidate countries the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia<sup>1</sup>, Montenegro<sup>1</sup>, Serbia<sup>1</sup> and Albania<sup>1</sup>, the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate Bosnia and Herzegovina, the European Free Trade Association countries and

---

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

members of the European Economic Area Liechtenstein and Norway, as well as Moldova and Georgia, align themselves with this statement.