

**STATEMENT BY THE EUROPEAN UNION AT THE
1052nd MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

Vienna, 14 May 2015

**In response to the report by the Head of the OSCE Mission to Moldova,
H.E. Ambassador Michael Scanlan**

The European Union (EU) thanks Ambassador Scanlan for his second report to the Permanent Council.

We particularly appreciate your having emphasized the contribution that the OSCE Mission to Moldova is making to a peaceful settlement of the Transdnestrian conflict, as that is the core of the Mission's mandate. Like you, we should like to see signs of a resumption of the settlement process in several recent meetings between Chişinău and Tiraspol. It must be acknowledged that these contacts have yet to translate into concrete progress and that the formal discussion process has been deadlocked for almost a year. We share your opinion of the need for the "5+2" discussion process to resume without preconditions or delay and to be informed by regular contributions from the working groups. We expect tangible progress across all three baskets, particularly in the political, institutional and security aspects of the third basket, subject to respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Moldova.

The continuation and completion of the discussions in the "5+2" format – the only one that can guarantee the transparency and legitimacy of a lasting solution – are a major factor in the stability and security of the region and would bring specific benefits to the Republic of Moldova, including the Transdnestrian region. The EU is willing to support the implementation of this solution, including financially. The Mission's support would be even more useful if it were based on a genuine political will among the parties to make headway in the negotiations. We remain convinced of the need to set a date for a formal meeting in the "5+2" format as soon as possible and without preconditions. We invite the Special Representative of the Serbian Chairmanship, Ambassador Bogojević, to take the necessary initiatives.

The Mission's projects in the three dimensions also contribute to creating the necessary conditions for a peaceful settlement of the Transdnestrian conflict that respects the sovereignty and the territorial integrity of the Republic of Moldova. To be able to do this, the members of your Mission must have full and unrestricted access to the whole territory of the Republic of Moldova, including the Transdnestrian region, and to the Russian armaments depot in Colbasna. We once more call on all participants in the "5+2" negotiations to use their influence to convince Tiraspol that it is in its interests to put an end to the restrictions on

the freedom of movement of the Mission's members and to help the Mission accomplish its mandate. We support the Mission's mandate, based on the commitments undertaken within the OSCE by its participating States, particularly as regards security, and we encourage the Mission to implement its mandate actively and continue to follow and report on developments in this area.

The obstacles to freedom of movement and to the opening of bridges and free access by farmers to their properties situated in the Transdnistrian region, as well as the difficulties of contacts between residents on both banks, necessitate an active dialogue in a spirit of co-operation. This also applies to the withdrawal of the remaining forces of the Russian Army from the Republic of Moldova, and to the incidents within the Security Zone. Nothing now justifies the militarization of that Zone.

Important demilitarization work remains to be done with regard to all the military forces in the region, transparently and with a view to increasing mutual trust. The OSCE and its Mission to Moldova, which will benefit from our unfailing support, have an important role to play in this.

The subject of schools in the Transdnistrian region that teach using the Latin script should be followed closely so that efforts to ensure the normal and enduring operation of these eight schools can be effectively supported.

We hope that the local elections will meet the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights standards.

We welcome the very active participation of the Republic of Moldova in the Eastern Partnership and the success of that country in its rapprochement with the EU. We hope that all the political and economic decision makers in all the regions of the country – in particular those in the Transdnistrian region – will recognize the opportunities available to them as a result of these developments and be committed to the resolute pursuit of reforms.

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

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