

**STATEMENT BY THE EUROPEAN UNION AT THE
966th MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

10 October 2013

**In response to the OSCE Chairmanship's report of activities at the "5+2"
talks held in Brussels on 3 October 2013**

Mr. Chairperson,

The European Union (EU) thanks the Ukrainian Chairmanship for its presentation, and wishes to express its satisfaction at having hosted the "5+2" talks on a peaceful settlement of the Transdnestrian conflict in Brussels on 3 October 2013. The discussions were devoted mainly to freedom of movement between the two banks of the Dniester. The EU reiterates its willingness to fully support the diplomatic process in this format, which remains the only one capable of ensuring the transparency and legitimacy required for a lasting solution.

Following the extensive discussions at the Brussels meeting, the EU hopes that the next meeting in the "5+2" format, to be held in Kyiv, will end in an agreement, one to whose implementation it is ready to contribute actively, among other things, by providing financial support. The EU strongly hopes that the forthcoming meetings in the "5+2" format will allow tangible progress to be made on substantive issues pertaining to a political settlement of the conflict.

The candidate countries the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia¹, Montenegro¹, Iceland² and Serbia¹, the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate countries Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina, the European Free Trade Association countries Liechtenstein and Norway, as well as San Marino, align themselves with this statement.

1 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.