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STATEMENT BY THE EUROPEAN UNION AT THE 898th MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL

Vienna, 19 January 2012

Regarding the tragic accident in the security zone in the Republic of Moldova on 1 January 2012

The European Union deeply regrets the tragic incident that on 1 January cost the life of a citizen of the Republic of Moldova at the Vadul lui Voda checkpoint, and wishes to express its concern that force was used by the peacekeeping mission in the security zone.

The European Union underscores that it is essential for an in-depth inquiry to be carried out to shed light on this incident. It welcomes the fact that the Joint Control Commission decided on 2 January to ask the Joint Military Command Commission, in co-operation with the judicial authorities of the Republic of Moldova, to submit to it by 23 January a detailed report on the circumstances surrounding the incident. The European Union hopes that this report will enable the Joint Control Commission to draw all the necessary lessons from this incident.

The European Union is prepared to participate actively in discussions on the demilitarization of the security zone and on a possible transformation of the peacekeeping mission.

The European Union hopes that the meeting in the “5+2” format that is to be held in Dublin at the end of February will make it possible to achieve progress in the conflict resolution process and calls on all the parties involved to work to that end. Lastly, the European Union recalls that, once a comprehensive political settlement of the Transdniestrian conflict has been found, it will look into a more appropriate way of supporting the implementation of that settlement on the ground.

The acceding country Croatia, the candidate countries the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro¹ and Iceland², the Stabilisation and Association Process countries and potential candidate countries Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia, and the European Free Trade Association countries and members of the European Economic Area Liechtenstein and Norway align themselves with this statement.

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

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