

STATEMENT BY THE EUROPEAN UNION AT THE 987th MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL

Vienna, 6 March 2014

Regarding the meeting of the negotiations in the “5+2” format in Vienna on 27 and 28 February 2014

The European Union welcomes the meeting in the “5+2” format held in Vienna on 27 and 28 February 2014. We appreciate the progress made regarding freedom of movement but regret the absence of a lasting solution to the question of schools providing teaching in the Latin alphabet. Like Ambassador Brush, Head of the OSCE Mission to the Republic of Moldova, we do not believe that political differences should prevent children from being taught in the language of their choice. The European Union urges the negotiating parties to engage in dialogue on the basis of the OSCE recommendations. It is important that Tiraspol, which is not in charge of the administration of these schools, stops obstructing their activity, (for example, through non-justified increases in rent, measures concerning the staff of the schools, double taxation). It is essential to put an end to all measures that could create tensions and to ensure the normal and durable functioning of these schools.

The European Union strongly supports the continuation and conclusion of the discussions in the “5+2” format with due respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Moldova. It appeals to all of the participants in the “5+2” format, the only means for ensuring the transparency and legitimacy necessary for a lasting solution, to act in a spirit of openness and co-operation so as to permit progress on substantive issues. It calls on the participants to consider political, institutional and security questions as well as other baskets.

The European Union reaffirms its complete support for the OSCE Mission and its efforts to help resolve the conflict.

The candidate countries the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia¹, Montenegro¹, Iceland² and Serbia¹, the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate countries Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina, the member of the European Free Trade Association Norway, as well as Georgia, 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.