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STATEMENT BY THE EUROPEAN UNION AT THE 1189th MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL

14 June 2018

Following the meeting in the “5+2” format in Rome on 29 and 30 May

The European Union supports a peaceful and comprehensive settlement of the Transnistrian conflict on the basis of respect for the territorial integrity and sovereignty of the Republic of Moldova within its internationally recognized borders, with a special status for Transnistria.

We welcome the adoption of the Rome Protocol following the meeting of the Permanent Conference on Political Issues in the Framework of the Negotiation Process for the Transnistrian Settlement in the “5+2” format, which took place on 29 and 30 May.

This is an important document that confirms the willingness of the parties to implement the commitments undertaken. We congratulate them on opening up the prospect of application by the end of the year of the agreements on the priorities identified in 2016 and 2017 in the package of eight measures.

We strongly support the decision of the parties to continue the full implementation of the agreements concluded, including those concerning the technical evaluation of the Gura Bîcului-Bychok bridge, the apostilization of diplomas and the normal and sustainable functioning of Latin-script schools. We also welcome the fresh commitment by the parties to reach an agreement by the end of June on the elaboration of a concrete road map in the area of telecommunications and to implement it quickly, in close co-ordination with all the partners concerned.

The protocol signed in Rome also represents a good basis for progress in criminal cases and freedom of movement, the two priorities of the package on which there has not yet been substantial progress.

The European Union calls on the parties to implement the agreements quickly and to maintain the positive dynamic that has characterized the negotiations since the German and Austrian OSCE Chairmanships. The implementation of the protocol will bring concrete benefits in the daily life of the population. We expect all these results to lead to tangible progress in the three baskets of the agenda agreed for the negotiation process, in particular on the political, institutional and security aspects of the third basket.

We also welcome the strong commitment to resolving the conflict shown by the Special Representative of the Chairperson-in-Office, Mr. Franco Frattini, and that of the OSCE Mission to Moldova.

In conclusion, we recall the importance that we attach to keeping the negotiations focused on results.

The candidate countries the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia¹, Montenegro¹, Serbia¹ and Albania¹, the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Free Trade Association countries and members of the European Economic Area Iceland and Liechtenstein, as well as Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova, Georgia, Andorra and San Marino, align themselves with this statement.

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