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**STATEMENT BY
THE EUROPEAN UNION AT THE 1016th (SPECIAL) MEETING OF
THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

8 September 2014

Regarding the “5+2” talks

Mr. Chairperson,

The European Union regrets the postponement of the meeting in the “5+2” format scheduled to take place in Vienna on 11 and 12 September 2014. It is a great shame that one of the parties to the negotiations sets conditions for its participation in these meetings.

We hope that the meeting in the “5+2” format will take place without delay or preconditions. We expect it to produce active dialogue in a spirit of co-operation with a view to achieving tangible progress in the three baskets for settlement of the conflict in the Republic of Moldova while respecting the sovereignty and territorial integrity of this country.

The “5+2” format, which is the sole format capable of guaranteeing the transparency and legitimacy necessary for a long-term solution, should be supported by all its participants, who should undertake to reduce tensions throughout the region. A solution of this nature would be a major advance in ensuring stability and security in the region and would offer a number of specific advantages to the Republic of Moldova, including the region of Transdnistria.

By the same token, the activities of the OSCE Mission in the Republic of Moldova should be continued without hindrance and with full access to the entire territory of the Republic of Moldova, including the region of Transdnistria and the Russian arms depot in Colbasna.

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

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