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**STATEMENT BY THE EUROPEAN UNION  
AT THE 658th MEETING OF THE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

22 March 2007

**The Republic of Moldova**

The co-mediators and observers of the settlement process in Transdniestria met on 20 March in Vienna.

The European Union lends its full support to the efforts they are making to resume the negotiation process in the 5+2 format as soon as possible.

It urges the parties concerned, in particular the Transdniestrian party, to take a constructive approach and to recommit themselves unconditionally to the settlement process.

In conclusion, the European Union wishes to reiterate its full support to the OSCE Mission to Moldova and to Ambassador O'Neill whose competence and contribution to the fresh launching of the negotiation process we greatly appreciate.

The candidate countries Turkey, Croatia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia\*, the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate countries Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, and Serbia, the European Free Trade Association countries and members of the European Economic Area Iceland and Norway, as well as Ukraine align themselves with this statement.

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\* Croatia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.