

## **STATEMENT BY THE EUROPEAN UNION AT THE 994th MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

Vienna, 10 April 2014

### **Regarding the “5+2” talks**

The European Union regrets the postponement of the “5+2” meeting scheduled take place in Vienna on 10 and 11 April 2014. It is very unfortunate that one of the parties to the negotiations is making its participation in these meetings conditional. The European Union reiterates that these meetings must be held without preconditions and appeals to all the participants to engage in the negotiations in a constructive manner.

We hope that the meeting will be held as soon as possible and that it will enable, in a spirit of co-operation, tangible progress on the three baskets for the settlement of the conflict in the Republic of Moldova, with respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of that country.

The “5+2” format, which is the only means for ensuring the transparency and legitimacy necessary for a lasting solution, must be supported by all the participants, who should undertake to reduce tension throughout the region.

Similarly, the activities of the OSCE Mission to Moldova should continue unhindered and benefit from complete access to the entire territory of the Republic of Moldova, including the Transdnestrrian region, and to the Russian arms depot in Colbasna.

The candidate countries the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia<sup>1</sup>, Montenegro<sup>1</sup>, Iceland<sup>2</sup> and Serbia<sup>1</sup>, the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate countries Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina, the members of the European Free Trade Association Liechtenstein and Norway, as well as Georgia, Ukraine, Monaco and San Marino, align themselves with this statement.

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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.