



**COUNCIL OF  
THE EUROPEAN UNION**



Brussels, 27 September 2012  
13914/12  
PRESSE 385

### **Council lifts sanctions to recognise progress in Transnistria negotiations**

The Council today lifted a travel ban on the former political leadership of the Transnistrian region of the Republic of Moldova. This acknowledges progress seen under the new leadership in negotiating certain aspects of a settlement of the Transnistrian conflict within the "5+2" framework. Talks in this setting resumed after a six-year break in December 2011.

At the same time, the Council ensured today that travel bans could be re-imposed on those blocking progress on the remaining problems regarding Latin-script Moldovan schools in Transnistria. The relevant provisions have not been lifted, but do no longer target specific persons.

The Council will continue to monitor and make periodic reviews of developments with respect to progress towards a political settlement, the freedom of movement of persons and the situation of Latin-script Moldovan schools.

The act, adopted today by written procedure, will enter into force on publication in tomorrow's edition of the EU Official Journal.

# **P R E S S**

The restrictive measures against the political leadership of the Transnistrian region of Moldova were first imposed in 2003: 17 persons responsible for the lack of cooperation to promote a political settlement of the conflict were no longer permitted to enter the EU. In 2004, a second group of persons was targeted with a travel ban: those responsible for the campaign of intimidation and closure against Latin-script Moldovan schools in Transnistria. All sanctions were suspended in September 2010 in order to encourage progress in reaching a political settlement of the Transnistrian conflict, in addressing the remaining problems of the Latin-script schools and in restoring free movement of persons. Most recently, eleven persons were targeted by the restrictive measures.

---