

**EUROPEAN UNION****OSCE Permanent Council No 1099
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EU Statement on Georgia

The European Union is concerned by the recent conclusion of the so-called “Agreement on the State Border” by the Russian Federation with the breakaway region of South Ossetia. This action, together with previous so-called agreements signed between the Russian Federation and the two Georgian breakaway regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia, the “treaties on Alliance and Strategic Partnership/Integration” – which include references to a transfer of powers in some areas - further violates the fundamental norms of international law, including the principles of inviolability of Georgia’s sovereignty, territorial integrity and internationally recognized borders as well as Russia’s international commitments under the August 2008 Ceasefire Agreement.

The EU is also deeply concerned about the announced so-called “referendum” in the breakaway region of South Ossetia that is aimed at rewriting article 10 of the so-called “constitution” of the breakaway region of South Ossetia and opening the prospects of joining the Russian Federation. We recall that the EU does not recognise the constitutional and illegal framework in which such a referendum would take place. Such illegal processes and steps go against ongoing efforts to strengthen security and stability in the region.

The European Union reiterates its firm support for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Georgia within its internationally recognised borders. The European Union calls on Russia to fulfil its obligations under the ceasefire agreement of 12 August 2008 and its subsequent implementing measures of 8 September 2008, including providing EUMM access to the breakaway regions.

The Candidate Countries TURKEY, the FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA*, MONTENEGRO* and ALBANIA*, the Country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and Potential Candidate BOSNIA and HERZEGOVINA, the EFTA country ICELAND, member of the

European Economic Area, as well as UKRAINE, the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA and ANDORRA align themselves with this statement.

* The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Albania continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.