

Prohlášení Statement Déclaration

Vienna 5 February 2009

Permanent Council No.749 EU Statement on Georgia

The EU remains deeply concerned about the security and human rights situation in the areas within and around the administrative boundary lines. Recent incidents risk escalating the tense situation in the region and highlight the urgent need to establish an incident prevention mechanism between the sides. With regard to the OSCE MMOs' Spot Report dated 26 January 2009, we urge all sides to fully implement the 12 August and 8 September agreements, and to refrain from provocations. Meanwhile, we hold Russia responsible for security in the separatist regions and for ensuring that instability does not spread from them into the rest of Georgia.

The EU took note with concern of President Dmitry Medvedev's decision on 25 January 2009, to appoint an Ambassador at Large dealing also with the delimitation and demarcation of the borders with Abkhazia and South Ossetia, regions of Georgia. We reiterate our firm commitment to the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Georgia within its internationally recognized borders. We call on the Russian Federation to act in accordance with international law.

Given the situation on the ground, we once more underline the urgent need for confidence building measures. We reiterate our strong support

for the international monitors in the region, and condemn all acts that endanger their safety. We welcome the signing on 26 January of a Memorandum of Understanding between the European Union Monitoring Mission and the Ministry of Defence of Georgia, and would like to encourage the Russian Federation to consider reciprocating this agreement. We highly appreciate the informative reports of the OSCE MMOs, and once more call for the latter's safe and unhindered access to South Ossetia.

The human rights situation in the region remains another matter of concern. We took note of the Human Rights Watch report of 23 January 2009, and encourage all participating states to pay due attention to it. We also call on all sides to implement the recommendations made in the ODIHR's report on the human rights situation in the war-affected areas in Georgia, and are looking forward to proposals for an OSCE follow-up to the report.

The EU strongly supports the ongoing efforts of the Greek Chairmanship aimed at preserving the valuable OSCE presence throughout Georgia, including in South Ossetia. We call on all involved to engage constructively in the discussions, in the spirit of compromise, with the aim of reaching a workable and meaningful compromise solution for the benefit of the region.

The candidate countries TURKEY, CROATIA* and FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA*, the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate countries ALBANIA, BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA and MONTENEGRO, 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.

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