



EUROPEAN UNION

OSCE Permanent Council No 1154 Vienna, 13 July 2017

EU statement on Georgia

The EU strongly supports Georgia's sovereignty and territorial integrity within its internationally recognised borders.

We are therefore concerned by the placement of new borderisation features, including “Green Signs”, which represents another step in the borderisation process. Borderisation, including the placement of so-called “border signs” and barbed fences, violates the principles of sovereignty and territorial integrity, creates obstacles to the freedom of movement - including depriving local farmers access to lands cultivated by them for many years -, runs contrary to international efforts for a peaceful and sustainable solution of the conflict and must end.

This issue was discussed at the IPRM Meeting in Ergneti on 11 July 2017. During the meeting, the participants also expressed their willingness to discuss safe access to farmland along the Administrative Boundary Line. The EU welcomes such an approach as a promising way to improve the living conditions and the security of the conflict-affected population.

The IPRM is an important platform for dialogue and a place to focus on humanitarian problems faced by the people who reside near the Administrative Boundary Line. We encourage all participants to make the most of the possibilities offered by the framework to work out and implement solutions to the challenges faced by local residents.

The European Union will continue to closely follow the situation along the Administrative Boundary Line, including through the presence of the EU Monitoring Mission.

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, and to grant the EU Monitoring Mission access to the breakaway regions.

The Candidate Countries the FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA*, MONTENEGRO* and ALBANIA*, the Country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and Potential Candidate BOSNIA and HERZEGOVINA, as well as UKRAINE and the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA align themselves with this statement.

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