



EUROPEAN UNION

OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation N°828 Vienna, 14 September 2016

EU Statement in reply to the statement by Georgia on the Military Activities by the Russian Federation in Georgia's Breakaway Regions

The European Union and its Member States take note of the statement by Georgia.

The EU reiterates its concern about renewed military activities by the Russian Federation in Georgia's breakaway regions of Abkhazia and South-Ossetia, most recently in late August 2016 in preparation for the large-scale exercises "Kavkaz-2016".

The EU reiterates its firm support for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Georgia within its internationally recognised borders. The EU calls on Russia to fulfil its international obligations. We also reiterate our call for unhindered EUMM access to the Georgian breakaway regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia.

We note with concern the growing number of large scale exercises conducted by the Russian Federation in this and other neighbouring regions. Such military activities, including snap exercises raise many questions and create serious concerns, in particular for the participating States in close proximity of the training areas. We believe all necessary measures of transparency and clarification should be applied in the case of such exercises in order to dispel any concerns in accordance with the letter and spirit of all the OSCE commitments and obligations.