

**EUROPEAN UNION****OSCE Permanent Council Nr 955
Vienna, 6 June 2013**

EU statement on the 34th IPRM meeting

The EU took note of the 34th meeting under the Incident Prevention Response Mechanism (IPRM) – co-facilitated by the EU Monitoring Mission in Georgia and the OSCE – which took place in Ergneti on Friday 31 May 2013. The EU appreciates the constructive dialogue that took place during this meeting. In this context, we continue to stress the importance of resuming the effective functioning of the Gali IPRM meetings.

At the same time the EU is deeply concerned about the increased fencing activities on the part of Russia along the areas adjacent to the South Ossetia Administrative Boundary Line. Such measures have negative effects on freedom of movement of the local population and are contrary to international norms and commitments, especially to the 2008 ceasefire agreement and to the OSCE commitment on freedom of movement. We call on Russia to fulfil its obligations under the ceasefire agreement of 12 August 2008 and its implementing measures of 8 September 2008, including providing unhindered access to the EUMM to the breakaway regions. The EUMM plays a leading role in the IPRMs within its stabilisation, normalisation and confidence-building mandate. We join the participants of the IPRM in expressing our gratitude to the outgoing head of the EUMM, Ambassador Andrzej Tyszkiewicz for his leadership over the last two years.

The EU remains committed to finding a long-term and peaceful resolution to the conflict in Georgia. The EU reiterates its firm support for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Georgia within its internationally recognised borders. We repeat our concern at the continuing Russian military and security-related presence and infrastructure reinforcements in the Georgian breakaway regions of Abkhazia and the Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia.

We remain convinced of the urgent need for a meaningful cross-dimensional OSCE presence throughout Georgia, in particular for the benefit of the civilian population, including a robust monitoring capacity able to operate unhindered across the administrative boundary lines.

Once again we call on all parties to refrain from provocative measures. We hope that a constructive dialogue about this issue will prevail during the next round of the IPRM meeting on 21 June, and during the Geneva Discussion scheduled for the 25 and 26 of June.

The Acceding Country Croatia*, the Candidate Countries the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, Montenegro*, Iceland+ and Serbia*, the Countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidates Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the EFTA country Norway, member of the European Economic Area, as well as the Republic of Moldova, align themselves with this statement.

* Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

+ Iceland continues to be a member of the EFTA and of the European Economic Area.