

**EUROPEAN UNION****OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation N°825  
Vienna, 13 July 2016**

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**EU Statement on Security Situation in Georgia**

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The European Union and its Member States warmly welcome H.E. David Dondua, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Georgia, to the Forum for Security Co-operation and thank him for his interesting presentation. We thank the Polish FSC Chairmanship for providing us again with the opportunity to discuss regional security issues.

Resolution of the conflict in Georgia remains a priority for the European Union. The EUSR for the South Caucasus and the crisis in Georgia as well as the EU Monitoring Mission are visible and substantial signs of our commitment. We reiterate our view that the Geneva International Discussions, in their agreed format, continue to be the most important forum to address and resolve the challenges stemming from the conflict in Georgia.

The EUMM Georgia is an important part of the EU's engagement in the region. It represents a concrete example of EU's contribution to peace and security through stabilisation, normalisation and confidence building as the Mission is working to prevent incidents and a renewal of hostilities. We are therefore very pleased with the participation of Ambassador Kestutis Jankauskas, Head of the EU Monitoring Mission in Georgia, to today's Forum for Security Co-operation and we reiterate our full support to his outstanding work.

Fully functional Incident Prevention and Response Mechanisms are essential for consolidating stability. We therefore welcome the work of the Ergneti IPRM and the recent resumption of the activities of the Gali-IPRM, to which the EUMM is making a remarkable contribution. We call for a proper follow-up to the fatal shooting incident on 19 May, including the immediate pre-trial detention of the perpetrator.

We reiterate our firm support for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Georgia within its internationally recognised borders and our concern about the continuing

Russian military and security-related presence, infrastructure reinforcements and ongoing 'borderisation' in and along the Georgian breakaway regions. In this context, we continue to believe that a clear non-use of force commitment by Russia is necessary and should be complemented by international mechanisms to improve security and transparency on the ground. The EU calls on Russia to fulfil its obligations under the ceasefire agreement of 12 August 2008. We recall our concern regarding so-called agreements signed between Russia and the breakaway regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia, the "treaties on Alliance and Strategic Partnership/Integration", which violate fundamental norms of international law, including the principles of inviolability of Georgia's sovereignty, territorial integrity and internationally recognized borders. We recall that the EU does not recognize the legal ground of these so-called agreements.

We remain convinced that there is an urgent need for a meaningful cross-dimensional OSCE presence throughout Georgia, in particular for the benefit of the civilian population, including robust monitoring capacity able to operate unhindered across the Administrative Boundary Lines.

Finally, we reiterate our call to enable the EUMM 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, and the EFTA country ICELAND, member of the European Economic Area, 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.