

Prohlášení
Statement
Déclaration

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Joint Session of the FSC/PC no.39
EU Statement in response to the Co-chairs of the Geneva
Discussions and Ambassador Haber, Head of EUMM as well as the
Director of the CPC, Ambassador Salber

The European Union warmly welcomes the Co-chairs of the Geneva Discussions, Ambassadors Christopoulos, Morel and Verbeke, as well as the Head of the EU-Monitoring Mission to Georgia, Ambassador Haber, and the Director of the CPC, Ambassador Salber, and thanks them for their presentations.

It goes without saying that the EU strongly supports the Geneva talks, in which we are represented by our Special Representative for the Crisis in Georgia, Ambassador Pierre Morel. Despite difficulties and differences amongst participants, we consider these talks – in which all sides are represented – of great importance for security and stability in the region. We are looking forward to the next round of consultations on 1 July, and hope that further progress can be made in both working groups. We wish the co-chairs success with the preparations of the talks.

As stated on many other occasions, the EU remains firmly committed to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Georgia within its internationally recognised borders. We recall the Conclusions of the Presidency of the Extraordinary European Council of 1 September 2008, in which the European Council strongly condemned Russia's unilateral decision to

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|1|

recognise the independence of Abkhazia and South Ossetia, and reiterate our call for full implementation of the 12 August and 8 September 2008 agreements.

With the rapid deployment of the European Union Monitoring Mission to Georgia last autumn, the EU has contributed and continues to contribute to stability in Georgia. The EUMM plays an important role in the implementation of the Incident Prevention and Response Mechanism. We join Ambassador Haber in his call for unhindered access for EUMM throughout the territory of Georgia, including South Ossetia and Abkhazia.

Given the situation on the ground, we remain convinced of the urgent need for a continued cross-dimensional OSCE presence throughout Georgia, in particular for the benefit of the civilian population. This presence must include a meaningful monitoring capacity able to operate unhindered across the administrative boundary line. We call again on the Russian Federation to join others in order to reach consensus on the Greek Chairmanship's Draft Decision of 8 May 2009 on an OSCE Office in Tbilisi and the deployment of OSCE monitors in the framework of the implementation of the six-point agreement of 12 August 2008, for the sake of security and stability in the region.

The EU deeply regrets that the current OSCE Mission to Georgia has been forced to close and that all its work, including its valuable monitoring activities, will have to cease on 30 June. Nevertheless, the EU remains confident that the OSCE will continue its strong engagement with Georgia in all three dimensions, including through continued active participation in the Geneva talks; cofacilitation of the meetings of incident prevention and response mechanism; and following up on the recommendations made in

last year's joint ODIHR/HCNM report on the human rights situation in the war-affected areas.

Mr Chairman, taking into consideration the latest developments in New York, let me add that we deplore the recent decision of the Russian Federation to veto the extension of the UNOMIG mandate.

In conclusion, we would like to thank the Geneva Co-chairs, the Head of the EUMM and the Director of the CPC for their contribution, and wish them success with the continuation of their important work.

The candidate countries 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 country and member of the European Economic Area ICELAND, as well as UKRAINE and AZERBAIJAN align themselves with this statement.

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