



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
Permanent Council**

PC.DEC/861
19 August 2008

Original: ENGLISH

728th Plenary Meeting

PC.Journal No. 728, Agenda item 1

**DECISION No. 861
INCREASING THE NUMBER OF MILITARY MONITORING
OFFICERS IN THE OSCE MISSION TO GEORGIA**

The Permanent Council,

Striving to contribute to the full implementation of the six principles included in the agreement proposed by the French and Russian Presidents.

Decides to increase for a minimum period of six calendar months the number of Military Monitoring Officers in the OSCE Mission to Georgia by up to one hundred.

Twenty MMOs will be deployed immediately in the areas adjacent to South Ossetia.

The rest of the additional MMOs will be deployed subject to a new decision of the Permanent Council on the modalities of the MMOs, to be proposed by the Chairmanship without delay. This decision will apply to the abovementioned 20 MMOs as well.

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**INTERPRETATIVE STATEMENT UNDER
PARAGRAPH IV.1(A)6 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE
OF THE ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND
CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE**

By the delegation of France on behalf of the European Union:

“The European Union is gratified that the Permanent Council has decided to deploy immediately 20 additional observers.

It is the wish of the European Union that it be possible also for these observers and the additional observers to be deployed rapidly in South Ossetia/Georgia.

This decision shall not affect either the terms or the format of the international mechanism referred to in point five of the six-point agreement.

I should like to request that this interpretative statement be attached to the journal of the day.”

The candidate countries Turkey, Croatia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*; the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate countries Albania, Montenegro and Serbia; the European Free Trade Association countries Iceland and Norway, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Ukraine and Moldova, align themselves with this statement.

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

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By the delegation of the United States of America:

“While today’s decision is far from perfect, we believe it is of the utmost importance to get additional MMOs on the ground as soon as possible. If the parties to the conflict can accept this language, we can, too.

The United States offers the following interpretation:

We expect that this decision will not pre-empt the establishment of further international mechanisms, in accordance with the six-point plan.

With regard to paragraph one, we expect the armed forces of the Russian Federation to honor their commitment to withdraw to pre-August 6 lines; that is, the lines where they were stationed prior to the beginning of hostilities.

We also expect the Russian Federation to honor its commitment to provide full access for humanitarian operations throughout Georgia. We deplore reports of looting and attacks on civilians, especially in areas the international community has been unable to access. Withdrawal of Russian forces to pre-August 6 lines will allow for the more rapid re-establishment of normal, civilian policing. Until this occurs, Russia bears responsibility for the safety and welfare of all civilians in areas under the control of its forces.

With regard to paragraph two, we are interpreting the minimum period of six calendar months to become effective immediately upon the arrival of newly deployed MMOs. We expect the Russian Federation to allow the MMOs to fulfill the full range of their responsibilities. This includes monitoring compliance with the conditions of the six-point cease-fire, to include the delivery of humanitarian assistance.

With regard to paragraphs three and four, we expect the Russian Federation to allow MMOs full access to the whole of Georgia, with particular focus on the conflict zones, to include South Ossetia.”