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**STATEMENT BY H.E. MR. FRANÇOIS ALABRUNE,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF FRANCE TO THE OSCE, AT
THE 799th MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

19 March 2010

Mr. Chairman,

Permit me to say first of all that France fully agrees with the statement made by the Permanent Representative of Spain on behalf of the European Union (EU), to which I should like to add the following comments from a national perspective.

First, I should like to extend once again to the Vice Prime Minister of Georgia our cordial welcome to the Permanent Council.

Next, I should like to mention the reference that the Vice Prime Minister made in his statement to the interest shown by France in helping Georgia to organize an international conference for the presentation of the action plan that will transform the policies defined in the Georgian authorities' Strategy into specific actions.

In this respect, I confirm that Mr. Bernard Kouchner, Minister of Foreign and European Affairs, informed the Vice Prime Minister on 15 February 2010 of France's readiness to provide support for the Georgian authorities in this undertaking, together with its European Union (EU) partners and in collaboration with the services of the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy. Mr. Kouchner nonetheless indicated to the Vice Prime Minister on that occasion that, with this objective in mind, it would be advisable to evaluate a number of parameters in order to ensure the success of such an operation. Our ambassador in Tbilisi stands ready to assist the Georgian authorities in their efforts, in collaboration with our EU partners.

In closing, I should like to thank you again, Mr. Vice Prime Minister, for your presence today, and to thank your delegation and the Chairmanship for their efforts in organizing this meeting.

Thank you for your attention.