



PC.DEL/225/17
17 February 2017

ENGLISH only

EUROPEAN UNION

OSCE Permanent Council Nr 1134 Vienna, 16 February 2017

EU statement on the decision to hold a “referendum” in the Tskhinvali Region

The European Union is deeply concerned regarding the announced so-called “referendum” on changing the name of the Georgian breakaway region of South Ossetia. We recall that the EU does not recognize the framework in which such a so-called referendum would take place, and considers it unconstitutional. Such illegal steps go against ongoing efforts to strengthen security and stability in the region. The European Union reaffirms its commitment to a peaceful resolution of the conflict in Georgia in line with OSCE principles and commitments, including through its co-chairmanship of the Geneva International Discussions and the EU Monitoring Mission.

The European Union reiterates its firm support for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Georgia within its internationally recognized borders. The European Union calls on Russia to fulfil its obligations under the ceasefire agreement of 12 August 2008 and its subsequent implementing measures of 8 September 2008, and to provide EUMM access to the breakaway regions.

The Candidate Countries TURKEY, the FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA*, MONTENEGRO* and ALBANIA*, the Country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and Potential Candidate BOSNIA and HERZEGOVINA, as well as UKRAINE, the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA and SAN MARINO align themselves with this statement.

* The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Albania continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.