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## **Présidence française du Conseil de l'Union européenne**

**Conseil Permanent No. 744  
11 Décembre 2008**

### **EU statement on the shooting at an OSCE vehicle in Georgia**

The EU is shocked by the shooting by unknown assailants at an OSCE monitoring patrol that occurred yesterday west of the Kvemo Khviti area and east of the administrative border line of South Ossetia, Georgia.

We strongly condemn this act of violence against OSCE staff and calls upon all participating States to voice an unequivocal position on the incident. Such acts are unacceptable and undermine efforts to de-escalate tension on the ground. The EU urges all parties to exercise maximum restraint, refrain from provocative actions and continue to respect the cease-fire agreements. We call on all sides to contribute to the investigation of this attack.

Mr. Chairman,

This incident demonstrates once again the urgent need to allow immediate safe and unhindered access of the OSCE MMOs to South Ossetia in accordance with their mandate. It shows once more the necessity to establish without further delay an incident prevention mechanism between the sides, and to start implementing confidence building measures across the administrative boundary lines.

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Finally, the EU would like to take this opportunity to reiterate its high appreciation for the valuable work done in Georgia by the OSCE Mission and its full support for the continuation of its work.

La Turquie, la Croatie\* et l'ancienne République yougoslave de Macédoine\*, pays candidats ; l'Albanie, la Bosnie – Herzégovine et le Monténégro, pays du processus de stabilisation et d'association et candidats potentiels ; l'Islande, le Liechtenstein et la Norvège, pays de l'Association Européenne de libre-échange et membres de l'Espace économique européen ; ainsi que l'Ukraine et la République de Moldavie se rallient à cette déclaration.

\*La Croatie et l'ancienne République yougoslave de Macédoine continuent à participer au processus de stabilisation et d'association.

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