



## **EUROPEAN UNION**

### **OSCE Permanent Council Nr 910 Vienna, 3 May 2012**

#### **EU statement on the meeting of the Gali Incident Prevention and Response Mechanism scheduled for 24 April 2012**

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In connection with the Gali Incident Prevention and Response Mechanism (IPRM) meeting scheduled for 24 April that did not take place, the European Union would like to draw the attention of the Permanent Council to the statement issued by the spokesperson of High Representative, Catherine Ashton, on 27 April 2012 in Brussels and circulated under the reference number SEC.DEL/140/12.

We underline that any challenge to established and agreed procedures of the Geneva International Discussions can have serious consequences. As stated in the Statement of the Co-Chairs of the Geneva International Discussions on 25 April, the IPRM's have been acknowledged by all participants of the Geneva Discussions as an important tool for addressing security issues as well as other issues on the ground.

The EU Monitoring Mission plays a leading role in the IPRM's within its stabilisation, normalisation and confidence-building mandate, and the determination of the composition of the delegation of the EU at the IPRM meeting by any other participant is unacceptable.

The EU expresses its hope that the Gali IPRM can soon meet again to the benefit of everyone in the region.

The EU welcomes the 22<sup>nd</sup> Ergneti/Dvani IPRM meeting that took place in Ergneti on 30 April 2012 and was conducted in a productive atmosphere.

The Acceding Country Croatia\*, the Candidate Countries the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia\*, Montenegro\*, Iceland+ and Serbia\*, the Countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidates Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the EFTA country Norway, member of the European Economic Area, as well as Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova, align themselves with this statement.

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

+ Iceland continues to be a member of the EFTA and of the European Economic Area.