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OSCE Permanent Council No. 1269 Vienna, 28 May 2020

EU statement concerning the latest developments in Georgia

In relation to the current issue raised by the Delegation of Georgia and the statement it delivered, we would like to reiterate that the European Union remains seized of the situation and developments in Georgia both in terms of the security situation along the Administrative Boundary Lines of the Georgian regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia and the humanitarian situation on the ground. This includes the totally unjustifiable continuing loss of human lives of patients to be transferred across the Administrative Boundary Lines due to the closed crossing points and freedom of movement restrictions.

In this context, we reiterate our concerns about the continuing Russian illegal military presence in the Georgian regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia. This presence violates the sovereignty and the territorial integrity of Georgia, further divide communities, damage the livelihoods of the conflict-affected population and hinder efforts to protect their health and lives. We urge those responsible for these acts to reverse them and to refrain from any new steps that could further escalate the already fragile security and humanitarian situation on the ground.

The European Union categorically rejects all attempts aimed at discrediting EU Monitoring Mission and its activities along the Administrative Boundary Line with South Ossetia. The EUMM closely observes on a daily basis the situation on the ground, including during the current pandemic, and the EUMM approach is utterly impartial. Any attempts, either by in action or through statements, to prevent the Mission's work and restrict its mandate are unacceptable and must stop.

In this context, we reiterate our call for the full and unlimited resumption of the Incident Prevention and Response Mechanism. Sincere dialogue is needed in order to build



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trust and confidence and to significantly contribute to a future durable and sustainable solution of the conflict.

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 EU-mediated ceasefire agreement of 12 August 2008 and its subsequent implementing measures of 8 September 2008. The European Union also calls for access for the EUMM to the whole territory of Georgia, including the regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia as per its mandate, as well as for human rights monitoring mechanisms, humanitarian and civil society organizations.

The Candidate Countries REPUBLIC of NORTH MACEDONIA*, MONTENEGRO* and ALBANIA*, the EFTA countries ICELAND and LIECHTENSTEIN, members of the European Economic Area, as well as UKRAINE, the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA, GEORGIA and SAN MARINO align themselves with this statement.

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