

# Prohlášení Statement Déclaration

Vienna 30 April 2009

## **Permanent Council No. 759**

### **EU Statement in response to the address by the Special Representative of the CiO Ambassador Charalampos Christopoulos**

The European Union warmly welcomes Ambassador Christopoulos back to the Permanent Council and thanks him for his detailed briefing. The EU would like to commend him for his active engagement regarding Georgia and the Republic of Moldova.

On Georgia, the EU continues to follow closely the developments on the ground and is looking forward to the next round of Geneva talks, scheduled for 18-19 May. With regard to the first working group (on security and stability), we welcome the fact that – as a concrete result of the latest round of talks - on 23 April the first meeting of the Incident Prevention and Response Mechanism took place in Ergneti. We consider the full implementation of the agreed mechanism, where the OSCE plays its active role, an important confidence building measure, and are looking forward to a follow-up meeting scheduled for early May.

We hope that also in the second working group dealing with urgent humanitarian issues tangible progress could be reached.

The EU welcomes also the extension, on 26 April, for another 3-month period, of the Memorandum of Understanding between the EUMM and the

Ministry of Defense of Georgia. While acknowledging that this is a unilateral confidence building measure by Georgia, the EU would like to encourage the Russian Federation to consider a similar step in order to further enhance the security situation on the ground.

The EU noted with concern the 14 April statement of the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities on recent developments in Abkhazia, Georgia. We again call on all sides to implement the recommendations made in the ODIHR's report of 27 November 2008 on the human rights situation in the war-affected areas in Georgia, and highlight the need for an OSCE follow-up to the report.

The EU continues to follow closely ongoing protests and political processes in Georgia. We appeal to all stakeholders to engage in serious and constructive talks in order to overcome the current deadlock and undertake the political reforms necessary to consolidate Georgian democracy. We confirm our readiness to support efforts to strengthen democracy and the rule of law in the country. We would like to recall the important role the OSCE Mission to Georgia has played in this respect during the past years.

We reiterate our strong support for the Chairmanship's tireless efforts aimed at maintaining a meaningful OSCE presence in Georgia, including South Ossetia. We remain convinced that if there is genuine political will on all sides, a workable solution can be found. In this spirit, the EU fully supports the Greek Chairmanship's Draft Decision on the OSCE Office in Tbilisi and on the OSCE Monitoring Operation in the August Conflict Zone, which aims for practical solutions while avoiding political sensitivities.

We reiterate our commitment to the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Georgia within its internationally recognized borders.

Turning to the Republic of Moldova, the EU recalls its appeal to all political forces to overcome the current political crisis through dialogue. In addition, the EU expects from the Moldovan authorities the prompt restoration of full respect for human rights, fundamental freedoms and the rule of law.

The EU appreciates and supports the contribution of Ambassador Christopoulos to the search for a settlement of the Transnistrian conflict based on the respect for the territorial integrity and sovereignty of the Republic of Moldova. We reiterate the call by the Mediators and Observers, who met 28 April here in Vienna, for an early renewal of political negotiations in the Permanent Conference on Political Issues in the Framework of the Transnistria Settlement Process, the so-called "5+2". As previously stated by the EU, the negotiations should start without preconditions. We echo the 3+2 in stressing the importance of further direct contacts between the Sides at all levels, including in the Joint Expert Working Groups on Confidence-building Measures, and welcoming the intention of the OSCE Mission to Moldova and the Greek Chairmanship to organise a seminar on Confidence and Security Building Measures in the Military field.

In concluding, we would like to wish Ambassador Christopoulos success in his further endeavors. You can be assured of our full support.

The candidate countries TURKEY, CROATIA\* and the FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA\*, the countries of the Stabilisation and

Association Process and potential candidate countries ALBANIA, BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA and MONTENEGRO, the European Free Trade Association country and member of the European Economic Area ICELAND, as well as UKRAINE align themselves with this statement.

\*Croatia and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.