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Swedish Presidency of the European Union

**OSCE Permanent Council No. 767
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EU Statement on Georgia

The European Union welcomes the progress made during the 6th round of Geneva talks on 1 July. Regarding the first working group, we reiterate our call for full implementation of the joint incident prevention and response mechanisms, which are important confidence building measures. In this respect, we are pleased that it was agreed that the first meeting of one of the mechanisms will take place in Gali on 14 July. However, we regret that no agreement was reached on the third meeting of the other mechanism, despite the general notion that it should take place as soon as possible. Regarding the second working group, we encourage all sides to implement the recommendations contained in Mr. Johannides' report of 26 June on water problems.

Despite difficulties and differences amongst participants, we consider the continuation of the Geneva talks of great importance, as the only forum in which all sides are represented and three major international actors - the European Union, the OSCE and the United Nations - work in close co-operation for the security and stability in the South Caucasus, which also has wider implications for European security. We are looking forward to the next round of consultations on 17 September.

Postal address
Obere Donaustrasse 49-51
1020 Vienna, Austria

Visitor's address
Obere Donaustrasse 49-51
1020 Vienna, Austria

Telephone
+43 (0) 1 217 53 0

Fax
+43 (0) 1 217 53 380

E-mail: osse-del.wien@foreign.ministry.se
euoffice@osce.org

The EU deeply regrets that the OSCE Mission to Georgia was forced to close on 30 June. We remain convinced of the urgent need for a continued cross-dimensional OSCE presence throughout Georgia, including a meaningful monitoring capacity able to operate unhindered across the administrative boundary line. We would welcome a serious Russian re-engagement and early progress on the basis of the status-neutral Greek Chairmanship's Draft Decision of 8 May 2009, which we continue to support, for the sake of security and stability in the region.

The candidate countries TURKEY, CROATIA* and 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 countries and members of the European Economic Area ICELAND, LIECHTENSTEIN and NORWAY, as well as UKRAINE align themselves with this statement.

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