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Swedish Presidency of the European Union

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EU Statement on incident prevention and response mechanisms in Georgia

The European Union is pleased with the first meeting of the incident prevention and response mechanisms in Gali that took place on 14 July. We welcome the progress made on technical, procedural issues, including the establishment of a “hot-line”, and the agreement to hold such meetings once every two weeks. We are looking forward to the next meeting scheduled for 28 July.

Recent incidents along the administrative boundary lines demonstrate once again the urgent need for full implementation of both incident prevention and response mechanisms, as important confidence building measures which should contribute to security.

We therefore reiterate our call for the second mechanism to meet without further delay and without preconditions, for the sake of security and stability in the region. We refer to the latest round of Geneva talks on 1 July, in which all participants agreed that such a meeting should take place as soon as possible.

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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, MONTENEGRO and SERBIA, the European Free Trade Association countries and members of the European Economic Area ICELAND, LIECHTENSTEIN and NORWAY, as well as UKRAINE and the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA align themselves with this statement.

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