

Austrian Presidency of the Council of the European Union

**Permanent Council No. 595  
2 March 2006**

**EU statement on South Ossetia, Georgia**

1. At the Permanent Council of 16 February 2006, the EU reserved the right to get back to the issue of the Resolution of the Georgian parliament on the peacekeeping force in South Ossetia, Georgia. In this context, the EU would like to refer to the declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the EU, which was issued on 21 February 2006.
2. In this declaration by the Presidency, the EU recalled its support for the initiatives taken towards peaceful resolution of the conflict. The EU reiterates the belief, which was expressed by all OSCE participating States in Ljubljana, that the recent proposals, in particular the Peace Plan built upon the initiatives of the President of Georgia presented at the 59<sup>th</sup> UNGA, will serve as a basis for the peaceful settlement of the conflict.
3. The EU deeply regrets the cancellation of the meeting of the Joint Control Commission in Vienna. Dialogue aimed at peaceful resolution of the conflict can only be effective when all sides are able to participate. The EU therefore urges all parties to look into possibilities to a meeting on a political level as soon as possible. The EU welcomes the intention of the Chairman-in-Office to send his Special Envoy to Tbilisi and Tshkinvali on 7-8 March 2006.
4. Meanwhile all sides should exercise restraint. Full implementation of all existing demilitarisation agreements remains crucial. The EU welcomes the fact that the Georgian government has announced unilateral steps aimed at demilitarisation of the zone of conflict. The EU is looking forward to rapid implementation of the measures in a manner which is fully

consistent with existing demilitarisation commitments. The EU calls upon the South Ossetian side to undertake similar steps.

5. The EU commends the OSCE Mission to Georgia for its role as facilitator of dialogue, its unabated efforts to promote the peace process and for the professionalism of the Mission Monitoring Officers. The EU fully supports the Mission's endeavours.
6. Finally, the EU once more reiterates its support for a peaceful resolution of the conflict, based on respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Georgia within its internationally recognised borders. The EU stands ready to contribute actively, and in every relevant forum, to accelerate the process of demilitarisation and of conflict resolution overall.

The Acceding Countries Bulgaria and Romania, the Candidate Countries Turkey, Croatia\* and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia\*, the Countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidates Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Montenegro, as well as Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova align themselves with this declaration.

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\*Croatia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia continues to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process