



Slovensko predsedstvo EU 2008  
Slovenian Presidency of the EU 2008  
La Présidence slovène de l'UE 2008

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## **Slovenian Presidency of the Council of the European Union**

### **Forum for Security Cooperation No. 544 30 April 2008**

#### **EU statement on recent incidents in Abkhazia, Georgia**

The EU remains seriously concerned about recent developments in the Georgian conflict areas, including the latest incident in Abkhazia on 20 April.

The EU reiterates its firm commitment to the sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity of Georgia within its internationally recognised borders as reaffirmed in the UNSC resolution 1808 of 15 April 2008.

The EU reconfirms the leading role of the United Nations in Abkhazia, Georgia in negotiations aimed at the peaceful resolution of the conflict. We support the efforts of the United Nations Secretary General and his special representative, with the assistance of the United Nations Secretary General's Group of Friends.

The EU strongly condemns all activities, including threats to use military force, which risk increasing tension, and calls on all parties involved in these incidents to renounce armed or military action and to respect Georgia's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Regarding the latest incident, the EU welcomes UNOMIG's proposal for a UN-led Joint Fact Finding Group and hopes for consensus on its modalities shortly. We are looking forward to the results of the investigation. We stand ready to contribute to these efforts, including by providing experts for such a Group.

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The EU expresses full confidence in the Chairman-in-Office's approach. We regret that no consensus was found to act under MC.DEC 3/2001 "Fostering the role of the OSCE as a forum for political dialogue". The EU is of the opinion that the OSCE should remain seized of the issue, and we are looking forward to a continued discussion in the FSC.

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