

**Prohlášení**  
Statement  
Déclaration

Vienna 2 April 2009

**Permanent Council No. 757**  
**EU Statement on Georgia**

The EU took note with concern of the 29 March 2009 Spot Report of the OSCE Military Monitoring Officers in Georgia, regarding two explosions in the Dvani area. We condemn these attacks, which resulted in the death of a Georgian policeman - the twelfth officer killed on duty since ceasefire began – while nine others were injured. We call for a full investigation of this incident on both sides of the administrative boundary line.

Violent incidents like this, which breach the ceasefire agreements and risk escalating the tense situation in the region, are unacceptable. The latest incident demonstrates once again the urgent need to implement the incident prevention and response mechanism between the sides, agreed on during the last round of the Geneva talks, as well as other confidence building measures. It also underlines once more the importance of a meaningful OSCE monitoring capacity able to operate across the administrative boundary lines.

The OSCE contributes to stability and security in the area and should continue to do so. We reiterate our strong support for all the efforts made by the Finnish and Greek Chairmanships aimed at preserving the OSCE presence in Georgia, including South Ossetia. We reiterate our

commitment to the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Georgia within its internationally recognized borders. We remain convinced that if there is genuine political will on all sides, a workable and meaningful compromise solution can be found. We hope that the Greek Chairmanship's efforts will soon result in a concrete proposal that can meet consensus.

The EU is indeed of the opinion that time has now come for all participating States to clearly commit themselves on the continuation of an OSCE engagement in Georgia and to take decisions fully consistent with the 12 August and 8 September agreements, the latter reaffirming solemnly the key role played by the OSCE observers on the ground. The EU would like to flag that the endeavours of the Chairmanship can succeed only if all participating States assume their responsibilities and agree to the necessary compromises. We urge all to demonstrate the resolve indispensable to the swift conclusion of such an agreement.

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