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Delegation**

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United Kingdom Presidency of the Council of the European Union

**Permanent Council No. 566  
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**EU Statement on South Ossetia**

The EU will continue its efforts to assist in conflict resolution in Georgia, including through support to the OSCE in the conflict resolution mechanism for South Ossetia. The EU remains concerned about continuing tensions in South Ossetia and welcomes all steps which would enable the parties to regain mutual trust, including activities aimed at economic cooperation and the resettlement of refugees and internally displaced persons in the region. The EU underlines the importance of demilitarisation as fundamental to the peace process and calls upon both sides to comply without delay.

The Acceding Countries Bulgaria and Romania, the Candidate Countries Turkey and Croatia <sup>1</sup>, the Countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidates Albania and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, as well as Ukraine, align themselves with this declaration.

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<sup>1</sup> Croatia continues to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process