



EUROPEAN UNION

OSCE Permanent Council Nr 1006 Vienna, 3 July 2014

EU Statement on the Latest Round of the Geneva International Discussions

The last round of the Geneva International Discussions took place more than two weeks ago. We reiterate our view that the Geneva International Discussions, in their agreed format, continue to be a very important forum in which to address and resolve the challenges stemming from the conflict in Georgia, with the participation of all stakeholders. All participants should be committed to this process and engage constructively in its work.

But what happened during the talks gives rise to some concern. We regret that participants from the breakaway regions of Georgia decided to walk out of the second working group of the Geneva Discussions, quickly followed by participants from the Russian Federation. We call upon all participants of the Geneva Discussions to remain committed to the process, so that the next round can take place as scheduled, and in a more cooperative atmosphere, on 7-8 October 2014.

Mr Chair, the position of the European Union on the protracted conflict in Georgia is well known. The European Union recalls its firm support for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Georgia within its internationally recognised borders and reiterates its concern about the continuing Russian military and security related presence and infrastructure reinforcements in the Georgian breakaway regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia. The EU calls on Russia to fulfil its obligations under the ceasefire agreement of 12 August 2008 and its subsequent implementing measures of 8 September 2008, including providing the EU Monitoring Mission (EUMM) with access to the breakaway regions. The EU plays a leading role in the IPRMs within its stabilisation, normalisation and confidence-building mandate. We also reiterate our call for unhindered access for humanitarian organisations. The

EU calls for resuming the effective functioning of the Gali Incident Prevention and Response Mechanism (IPRM) meetings, and welcomes the constructive work done within the Ergneti IPRM.

The Candidate Countries the FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA*, MONTENEGRO*, ICELAND+ and ALBANIA*, the Country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and Potential Candidate BOSNIA and HERZEGOVINA, and the EFTA country NORWAY, member of the European Economic Area, as well as UKRAINE, the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA and SAN MARINO align themselves with this statement.

* The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Albania continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

+ Iceland continues to be a member of the EFTA and of the European Economic Area.