



**GUAM Statement
at the 646th meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council
18 January 2007**

ENGLISH only

Mr. Chairman,

I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the Member States of the Organization for Democracy and Economic Development – GUAM. The GUAM countries welcome H.E. Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier to the Permanent Council meeting and thank him for his comprehensive overview of the German EU Presidency priorities and of the EU-OSCE relations.

The GUAM highly values Germany's strong intention to play a visionary role during its presidency and welcome the priorities outlined in the Federal Government's Work Programme for the German EU Presidency. We are convinced that effective realization of these ambitious goals will further promote security, stability and prosperity in Europe and beyond.

Integration to the Euro-Atlantic structures, as well as strengthening of the interactive and multifaceted cooperation with the EU are among the main foreign policy priorities of the GUAM States. The recent accession of Romania and Bulgaria to the EU and signing of the European Neighbourhood Policy Action Plans with Georgia and Azerbaijan have brought the GUAM countries closer to the EU. We are confident that these positive developments will enhance the level of cooperation between the EU and the GUAM States and hope that the German EU Presidency will take an active role in this process.

The GUAM Member States notes that the EU-Azerbaijan Action Plan constitutes a significant step towards an increasingly close relationship between the EU and Azerbaijan, going beyond co-operation, to involve a significant measure of economic integration and deepening of political co-operation. The Action Plan envisages a qualitatively new level of bilateral dialogue and cooperation in implementing political, social and humanitarian, economic and institutional reforms. The GUAM welcomes Azerbaijan's determination to make full use of this occasion to enhance its relations with the EU.

The GUAM welcomes ever-deepening cooperation between the EU and Georgia and the beginning of the implementation of the ENP Action Plan. We express our hope that during its presidency Germany will play a decisive role in generating a momentum for further facilitating trade relations between the EU and Georgia. We hope that German EU Presidency will contribute to strengthening cooperation on

border security, more efficient migration management and judicial reforms, as well as to enhancing visa dialogue, going hand in hand with readmission agreement negotiations.

The GUAM States note the progress achieved in the process of implementation of the EU-Moldova Action Plan and are looking forward to the launch of the EU discussions with Moldova on the future Association Agreement that will replace the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement expiring in 2008. The further enhancement of the EU-Moldova dialogue in the field of energy security, improving trade and visa regimes, through establishing of the Autonomous Trade Preferences and signing with the EU the Visa Facilitation Regime Agreement and Readmission Agreement, should be considered by the German EU Presidency as a priority.

The GUAM Member States welcome Ukraine's aspirations for deepening cooperation with the EU towards achieving in a long-term perspective a full-fledged membership in the European Union. We note Ukraine's intention not to limit its cooperation with the EU to the ENP and its invitation to the EU to start elaborating new approaches to cooperation with the European countries, which have clearly declared their European choice. As the negotiations on a new basic treaty between Ukraine and the EU to substitute the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement are to be launched in early 2007, the establishment of a free trade area, gradual integration of Ukraine to the EU internal market and recognition of Ukraine's European choice should become the key elements of this document. The GUAM Member States hope that the German EU Presidency will be marked by further strengthening of cooperation between Ukraine and the EU in political and security areas, in trade and economy, and by successful implementation of sectoral agreements, particularly in the fields of energy and transport.

Mr. Chairman,

The GUAM welcomes the strong intention of Germany to adopt the European action plan on energy policy, which will contribute to further strengthening cooperation between energy producer, transit and consumer countries. The GUAM Member States play an important role in shaping the European energy security and will continue to remain reliable partners to the EU in providing alternative energy supplies and energy transport routes. The Memoranda of Understanding on cooperation and strategic partnership in the field of energy, signed between the EU and some of the GUAM Member States, will significantly contribute to achieving this goal.

Mr. Chairman,

We would like to reiterate once again the concern of the GUAM about the lack of progress in the peaceful settlement of unresolved conflicts in and around the Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan, the Abkhazian and South Ossetian regions of Georgia and in the Transdnistrian region of Moldova. We strongly believe that there is no alternative to the peaceful resolution of these conflicts, which should be based on generally recognized norms and principles of international law, sovereignty, territorial

integrity, inviolability of the internationally recognized borders of the states, as well as on the relevant resolutions of the UN Security Council and OSCE decisions.

We highly appreciate the contribution of the EU Border Assistance Mission to Moldova and Ukraine to ensuring increased effectiveness of border controls. The introduction of the European standards in the management of the Ukrainian-Moldovan border is a powerful factor in strengthening security in the region. We attach great importance to the EU involvement in the 5+2 negotiations format. We stress the need for transformation of the current peacekeeping operation in the Transdnistrian region of the Republic of Moldova into a multinational peacekeeping mission with an international mandate, in which the EU has to play a leading role.

The GUAM expresses its gratitude for the valuable support of Germany and the EU in economic rehabilitation projects in the Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia, Georgia. We are confident that the EU's continued support in this direction could greatly encourage settlement process. We hope that the German EU Presidency will explore the possibilities for a stronger and more active contribution of the EU to the conflict resolution processes in Georgia, as stipulated by the EU-Georgia Action Plan, also through the efforts directed at putting in place the genuine negotiating format, allowing for direct dialogue between the conflicting parties facilitated by credible international actors, as well as finding the ways for broadening the composition of the peacekeeping forces. Reinforcing the EU Special Representative's mandate in Georgia in a way that will allow him to participate in negotiations as a facilitator is one of the means necessary for advancing the peace process.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.