

Austrian Presidency of the Council of the European Union**Permanent Council No. 613****15 June 2006****EU statement on the Donor's Conference on South-Ossetia, Georgia**

1. The European Union would like to briefly look back at the successful OSCE Donors' Conference on South Ossetia, Georgia, which was held in Brussels on the 14th of June 2006. We thank the Belgian Chairmanship of the OSCE for all its efforts in the run-up to the conference and for the successful organisation of the conference itself. At the conference, donor countries together with the parties of the Joint Control Commission discussed a package of projects, aimed at building confidence between the sides to the Georgian-Ossetian conflict through economic rehabilitation of the zone of conflict and adjacent areas.
2. The European Union and its member states pledged a total amount of 7.9 million Euro for the package, thus contributing substantively to the overall amount of 10 million Euro, which was raised at the conference. Through previous EU contributions to the economic rehabilitation of South Ossetia, Georgia, and the pledges made at the Donors' Conference, the European Union shows its continued commitment towards a peaceful resolution of the conflict. The European Union welcomes the various substantial pledges that were made by other donors.
3. The successful cooperation of both sides in the Needs Assessment Study shows that the parties involved are able to put differences aside and work constructively together. The EU recalls that by endorsing the "Major outcomes of the OSCE-led Needs Assessment Study" the JCC sides have obliged themselves to secure unhindered movement and unimpeded working conditions to the personnel involved in the implementation process. The European Union expects this good-faith cooperation to be extended to the overall political dialogue in the conflict settlement process, based on respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Georgia within its internationally recognized borders.

The Acceding Countries Bulgaria and Romania, the Candidate Countries Turkey, Croatia ¹ and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the Countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidates Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Montenegro, as well as Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova align themselves with this declaration.

¹ Croatia and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process