



EUROPEAN UNION

OSCE Permanent Council Nr 981 Vienna, 23 January 2014

EU Statement on Georgia

The European Union took note with concern of the expansion of the so-called “border zone” along the river Psou by the Russian Federation in view of the upcoming Sochi Winter Olympic Games and Paralympic Games. The European Union, through the EU Monitoring Mission (EUMM), is closely following the situation.

The European Union takes this opportunity to reiterate its profound concern about the continuing erection of fences and other obstacles at different locations along and beyond the Administrative Boundary Lines by the Russian Federation.

We call on the Russian Federation to remove these barriers and to fulfil its obligations under the ceasefire agreement of 12 August 2008 and its subsequent implementing measures of 8 September 2008, including providing access to the EU Monitoring Mission to the Georgian breakaway regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia.

The European Union reiterates 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 presence and infrastructure reinforcements in the Georgian breakaway regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia.

The persisting challenges demonstrate that there is an urgent need for a meaningful cross-dimensional OSCE presence throughout Georgia, in particular for the benefit of the civilian population, including robust monitoring capacity able to operate unhindered across the Administrative Boundary Lines. In this context, the European Union fully supports the Swiss Chairmanship’s ambition to re-launch a discussion on the OSCE presence in Georgia. The European Union is

also looking forward to the next round of the Geneva Discussions scheduled for 25-26 March 2014.

The Candidate Countries MONTENEGRO*, ICELAND+, the Country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and Potential Candidates ALBANIA and the EFTA country NORWAY, a member of the European Economic Area, as well as the Republic of MOLDOVA align themselves with this statement.

* Montenegro continues to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

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