



EUROPEAN UNION

OSCE Permanent Council No. 1264 Vienna, 23 April 2020

EU statement concerning the latest developments in Georgia

The European Union condemns further “borderisation” activities carried out by South Ossetia-based de-facto security actors along the Administrative Boundary Line of the Georgian region of South Ossetia and reiterates its concerns about the continuing Russian illegal military presence in the Georgian region of South Ossetia. These actions, which were taken against the backdrop of the global fight against COVID-19 pandemic violate sovereignty and the territorial integrity of Georgia, further divide communities, damage the livelihoods of the conflict-affected population and hinder efforts to protect their health and lives. The violations must stop immediately. We urge those responsible for these acts to reverse them and to refrain from any new steps that could further escalate the already fragile security and humanitarian situation on the ground.

The European Union expresses its appreciation for the work of the Co-Chairs of the Geneva International Discussions and fully supports their statement on 18 April regarding the "borderisation activities", including the need for collaboration facing the common threat of the COVID-19 crisis. We also call for the full and unlimited resumption of the Incident Prevention and Response Mechanism. The European Union commends Georgia for its "Peace Initiative: A Step to a Better Future".

As regards the the so-called "presidential elections" held in Georgia's Abkhazia region on 22 March 2020, the European Union recalls that it does not recognise the constitutional and legal framework in which these so-called "elections" took place.



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The European Union reiterates its firm support for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Georgia within its internationally recognized borders. The European Union calls on Russia to fulfil its obligations under the EU-mediated ceasefire agreement of 12 August 2008 and its subsequent implementing measures of 8 September 2008. The European Union also calls for access for the EUMM to the whole territory of Georgia, including the regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia as per its mandate, as well as for human rights monitoring mechanisms, humanitarian and other civil society organizations.

The Candidate Countries REPUBLIC of NORTH MACEDONIA*, MONTENEGRO* and ALBANIA*, and the EFTA country ICELAND, member of the European Economic Area, as well as UKRAINE, the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA, GEORGIA, ANDORRA and SAN MARINO align themselves with this statement.

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