

1213th Meeting of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe

Strasbourg, 26 November 2014

<u>Statement by High Representative/Vice-President Federica Mogherini on the signature</u> of a "Treaty on Alliance and Strategic Partnership" between the Russian Federation and Georgia's breakaway region of Abkhazia

The Russian Federation's signature today of a so-called "Treaty on Alliance and Strategic Partnership" with Georgia's breakaway region of Abkhazia is detrimental to ongoing efforts to stabilise the security situation in the region.

Just like earlier agreements signed between the Russian Federation and Abkhazia, this violates Georgia's sovereignty and territorial integrity, contradicts principles of international law and the international commitments of the Russian Federation, including the 12 August 2008 Agreement and its Implementing Measures of 8 September 2008.

The EU reiterates its firm support for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Georgia within its internationally recognised borders.

The Candidate Countries "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia"*, Montenegro *, Iceland+, Turkey, and Albania, the Country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the EFTA countries Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area, as well as the Republic of Moldova, Ukraine and San Marino align themselves with this statement.

* "The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia" and Montenegro continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

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