

**SECRETARIAT GENERAL**

SECRETARIAT OF THE COMMITTEE OF MINISTERS  
SECRETARIAT DU COMITE DES MINISTRES



Contact: *Christophe Poirel*  
Tel: 03 88 41 23 30

**Date:** 10 May / mai 2012

**DD(2012)477**

Meeting: 1142nd meeting of the Ministers' Deputies (9 May 2012)  
Item reference: 2.1 The Council of Europe and the conflict in Georgia  
Document distributed at the request of: the European Union

\* \* \* \* \*

Réunion : 1142e réunion des Délégués des Ministres (9 mai 2012)  
Référence du point : 2.1 Le Conseil de l'Europe et le conflit en Géorgie  
Document distribué à la demande de: l'Union européenne

---

\* In the application of Article 21.b of the rules of procedure of the Committee of Ministers, it is understood that distribution of documents at the request of a Representative shall be under the sole responsibility of the said Representative, without prejudice to the legal or political position of the Committee of Ministers (CM/Del/Dec(2001)772/1.4). / Dans le cadre de l'application de l'article 21.b du Règlement intérieur du Comité des Ministres, il est entendu que la distribution de documents à la demande d'un représentant se fait sous la seule responsabilité dudit représentant, sans préjuger de la position juridique ou politique du Comité des Ministres CM/Del/Dec(2001)772/1.4).



## EUROPEAN UNION

Delegation of the European Union to the Council of Europe

### **EU Statement on the Secretary General's fifth consolidated report on the conflict in Georgia (Committee of Ministers' Deputies 1142<sup>nd</sup> meeting on 9 May 2012)**

1. The EU thanks the Secretary General and welcomes his fifth consolidated report on the conflict in Georgia and looks forward to his next report expected for November 2012. The EU welcomes that the issue remains high on the political agenda of the Council of Europe.
2. The EU reiterates its firm support to the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Georgia within its internationally recognised borders.
3. The EU urges both Russia and Georgia to fulfil their international commitments and obligations, including those undertaken when joining the Council of Europe. In line with the Foreign Affairs Council conclusions of 27 February the EU reiterates its concern about the continuing Russian military and security-related presence and infrastructure reinforcements in the Georgian breakaway regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia. We call on Russia to fully implement its obligations of the Six Point ceasefire Agreement of 12 August 2008 and to withdraw its troops to the lines held previously to the outbreak of hostilities. Furthermore, these developments do not constitute a step forward as regards the important Principles of good neighbourly-relations. The EU calls on the participants of the Geneva International Discussion to the conflict to continue to work together towards sustainable security arrangements. In this regard, a clear non-use of force commitment by Russia would be necessary.
4. The EU also calls for the full implementation of the 8 September 2008 implementing measures, including to providing the EU Monitoring Mission access to the breakaway regions. Without access the EUMM cannot fully implement its mandate on contributing to stabilization, normalization and confidence building.
5. The EU reiterates its call on all the concerned parties to facilitate and grant access to the international community, including the Council of Europe, for the benefit of all persons affected by the conflict and in need of human rights protection, and expresses its concern on the human rights situation in the Georgian breakaway regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia. The EU is convinced that access to all parts of Georgia is a *sine qua non* condition for more meaningful action on the ground. The EU underlines the importance of the right of refugees and Internally Displaced Persons to a safe, dignified and voluntary return. The EU regrets that no progress has been registered in this respect.
6. The EU is concerned about the increasing difficulty to cross the Administrative Boundary Line for local residents and the ongoing process of "borderisation". This situation has negative implications on the freedom of movement of people, which hinders among others the development of economic activities and intercommunity relations.
7. The EU seizes this opportunity to encourage Georgia to pursue a more effective engagement policy and to take a pragmatic, positive and constructive approach to encourage trade, travel and investment across the Administrative Boundary Line.
8. The EU is also concerned by the deteriorating security situation in the Gali district, as well as by the issue of the military conscription and the teaching of the Georgian language in the district, which are underlined in the report.
9. The involvement of the Commissioner for Human Rights and his mediation in the exchange of detained persons has been an important element of the Council of Europe response. The EU therefore strongly encourages the newly elected Commissioner for Human Rights to continue to follow-up the implementation of recommendations put forward by his predecessor.

10. The EU welcomes the decision of the Georgian authorities to lift visa requirements for Russian citizens as of 1 March 2012, as well as, the positive and constructive co-operation between the Council of Europe and the Georgian authorities in implementing confidence building measures and encourages any further efforts in this respect.

The Acceding Country Croatia\*, the Candidate Countries Turkey, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia\*, Montenegro\* and Iceland+, the Countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidates Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the EFTA country Norway, member of the European Economic Area, as well as the Republic of Moldova and San Marino, align themselves with this statement.

\* Croatia, 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 of the European Economic Area.