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## P R E S S   R E L E A S E

### **EUSR for the South Caucasus and the Crisis in Georgia Philippe Lefort steps down**

The EU Special Representative for the South Caucasus and the Crisis in Georgia, Philippe Lefort, ends his mandate on 31 January 2014.

*"I would like to thank Ambassador Lefort for his hard work, energy, and dedication as co-Chair of the Geneva International Discussions and as EU Special Representative for the South Caucasus and the crisis in Georgia,"* said High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/Vice-President of the Commission Catherine Ashton. *"Philippe has worked with patience and objectivity to help the parties to the conflicts resolve their differences, and has earned their trust. I look to them to place similar trust in his successor."*

The EU remains firmly committed to conflict resolution in the South Caucasus, including through its co-chairmanship of the Geneva International Discussion and its active support for the OSCE-led Minsk Group peace process.

The EU will appoint a successor to Philippe Lefort in the coming weeks to ensure continuity in this vital role.

#### **For more information:**

[http://eeas.europa.eu/policies/eu-special-representatives/philippe-lefort/index\\_en.htm](http://eeas.europa.eu/policies/eu-special-representatives/philippe-lefort/index_en.htm)  
[http://eeas.europa.eu/south\\_caucasus/index\\_en.htm](http://eeas.europa.eu/south_caucasus/index_en.htm)

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