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Prohlášení

Statement

Déclaration

Vienna 14 May 2009

Permanent Council No.761

EU Statement on OSCE presence in Georgia

The European Union regrets that no consensus could be reached in the Preparatory Committee meeting on the Greek Chairmanship's Draft Decision on an OSCE Office in Tbilisi and the deployment of OSCE monitors in the framework of the implementation of the six-point agreement of 12 August 2008, that was circulated on 8 May 2009. This was particularly disappointing considering the tireless endeavours by the Chairmanship-in-Office, many months of consultations, and the support of an overwhelming majority of participating States - including all the Member States of the EU.

We have repeatedly stressed the urgent need for a timely decision on continued cross-dimensional OSCE presence in Georgia, including a meaningful OSCE monitoring capacity able to operate unhindered across the administrative boundary lines, which would contribute to security and stability in the region.

We were pleased to note yesterday that consensus exists on the basic assumption that a status-neutral approach is the only possible way towards a solution. In this spirit, we reiterate our support for the Greek Chairmanship's Draft Decision, which is indeed status-neutral and aims for practical solutions while avoiding political sensitivities.

We commend the Georgian Delegation for their constructive approach in the same spirit. We are disappointed that very few participating States were not yet ready to join consensus on this issue, which is not only important for the region, but also has wider implications for European security.

For the moment the room for negotiations seems to be exhausted. We therefore support the Chairmanship's decision to discontinue the negotiations and we encourage those participating States who were not ready to join the consensus, first and foremost the Russian Federation, to show the necessary political will and urgently reconsider their position in a constructive spirit.

Finally, the EU reiterates its firm commitment to the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Georgia within its internationally recognized borders.

The candidate countries TURKEY, CROATIA* and the FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA*, the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate countries ALBANIA, BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA and MONTENEGRO, the European Free Trade Association countries and members of the European Economic Area ICELAND and LIECHTENSTEIN, as well as UKRAINE align themselves with this statement.

*Croatia and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.