



EUROPEAN UNION

OSCE Permanent Council No. 1248 Vienna, 21 November 2019

EU Statement in reply to the AOB issue raised by Georgia

The European Union is concerned about the Georgian citizen Dr. Vazha Gaprindashvili, who has been illegally detained since 9th November by the de facto authorities in the Georgian region of South Ossetia for crossing the so-called “border”. We call for the immediate release of Dr. Gaprindashvili as well as of any other Georgian citizen, whose right to freedom of movement is being violated in this way.

Continuing restrictions to freedom of movement on Georgia’s population, including through arbitrary detentions, intensified “borderization” process or closures of crossing points are unacceptable. Such incidents are contributing to the worsening of the humanitarian and security situation on the ground. We reiterate our call to immediately reopen the crossing points along the South Ossetian Administrative Boundary Line, which have been closed since early September.

The EU reiterates its firm support for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Georgia within its internationally recognized borders. The EU 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. We reiterate our call 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 countries ICELAND and NORWAY, members of the European Economic Area, as well as UKRAINE, the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA and GEORGIA align themselves with this statement.

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