



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**



Brussels, 11 August 2008
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**Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union
on the deterioration of the situation
in South Ossetia (Georgia)**

The European Union expresses its grave concern over the violent fighting in South Ossetia (Georgia).

It calls for the immediate cessation of hostilities by all the parties and the swift resumption of negotiations in order to find a political solution to this crisis, respecting the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Georgia.

The European Union fully supports the efforts of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office as well as the OSCE mission in Georgia and calls for immediate cooperation with the mission by all parties.

The European Union, together with all the parties concerned, is working towards a ceasefire in order to prevent further escalation of this conflict.

P R E S S

The Candidate Countries Turkey, Croatia* and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, the Countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidates Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, and the EFTA countries Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area, as well as Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova align themselves with this declaration.

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