



EUROPEAN UNION

Brussels, 13 August 2010
A 160/10

Statement by High Representative Catherine Ashton on Russian plans on missile deployment in Abkhazia

Catherine Ashton, the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the Commission made the following statement:

"I am concerned about the reported statements that the Russian Federation has deployed a mid-range air defence system in the Georgian region of Abkhazia without the consent of the Government of Georgia.

The deployment of such a weapon system in Abkhazia would be in contradiction with the Six-point ceasefire agreement as well as implementing measures and would risk further increasing tensions in the region.

I call on Russia to fully implement all its obligations under the ceasefire agreement.

The EU reiterates its firm support for the security and stability of Georgia, based on full respect for the principles of independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity, recognised by international law.

The EU also recalls that official visits to the Georgian regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia should be made in full respect of Georgia's sovereignty and territorial integrity"

P R E S S

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