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საქართველოს საელჩო ბელგიის სამეფოში, ნიდერლანდების სამეფოსა და ლუქსემბურგის დიდ საჰერცოგოში, საქართველოს მისია ევროგაერთიანებებთან

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The Embassy of Georgia to the Benelux Countries and Mission of Georgia to the European Communities present its compliments to the European Parliament and has the honour to transmit the Considerations of the Georgian side on defining the basic principles of the «Joint Road-map» for a comprehensive, peaceful political settlement of the Conflict in Abkhazia.

The Embassy of Georgia to the Benelux Countries and Mission of Georgia to the European Communities avails itself the opportunity to renew to the European Parliament the assurance of its highest consideration.

Encl.: 2 pages.

**S**ussels, June 22, 2006

European Parliament Brussels 003227611199\_\_\_\_\_\_

Unofficial Translation

## Considerations of the Georgian side on defining the basic principles of the joint "road map" for a comprehensive, peaceful political settlement of the conflict in Abkhazia

The Georgian authorities, guided by the principles of mutual respect between the sides, declare its unswerving will to achieve a peaceful and just settlement of the conflict. Georgia deems it necessary to reenergize the peace process under the aegis of the United Nations, whilst at the same time aiming to deepen direct peaceful dialogue with the Abkhaz side and to achieve sound guarantees for the non-resumption of hostilities. Common history and tradition, and centuries of Georgian and Abkhaz coexistence in one State, is a favourable basis for affirming European democratic values through common efforts. Integration into European institutions is our common interest. The elaboration of a joint Georgian-Abkhaz "roadmap" is a vehicle for achieving a comprehensive settlement of the conflict based on the following principles:

Comprehensive political settlement of the conflict is based on the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Georgia in its internationally recognised borders.

- Stemming from the principles of federalism, the Georgian side is prepared to
  initiate consultations on granting to Abkhazia wide internal sovereignty. Of
  particular concern to Georgia is culture, language and the historic heritage of the
  Abkhaz as the autochthon people of Georgia. The dignified representation of the
  Abkhaz in all branches of power in Georgia will be one of the guarantees to this
  effect;
- The Georgian side considers a priority to be the elaboration of mechanisms of a
  two-sided dialogue and genuine interaction. The unification of the conflict-divided
  societies could be achieved through the restoration of confidence between the
  Georgian and Abkhaz sides.

A fundamental principle of the comprehensive settlement of the conflict is the unconditional, organised and dignified return of internally displaced persons and refugees irrespective of their ethnicity.

- The Georgian and Abkhaz law enforcement structures must play a considerable role
  in the organisation of the internationally-supervised secure and dignified return to
  the whole of Abkhazia of the population evicted as a result of the ethnic cleansing.
  To this end, the preparation of a joint action plan for the law enforcement agencies
  should begin with the facilitation of UN civilian police;
- With the assistance of effective international monitoring mechanisms, fundamental rights of the evicted population should be restored, including personal safety,

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freedom of movement, education in the mother tongue, protection of historic and cultural heritage, freedom of confession, etc. The first primary step in this direction should be the activisation of the work of the UN/OSCE Human Rights Office in Sukhumi, and the opening of its sub-office in Gali in view of the particularly grave situation in the Gali district;

 It is necessary to develop joint mechanisms for registration of immovable property in Abkhazia and, likewise, a joint definition and assurance of property rights and privatization.

The leadership of Georgia stands ready to implement all commitments for the non-resumption of hostilities and settlement of the conflict by peaceful political means.

- The development of an atmosphere of trust between the sides will make it possible to destroy confrontational stereotypes and an objective assessment of the causes of the conflict;
- The Georgian side would promote civic dialogue between eminent representatives
  of the Georgian and Abkhaz peoples, establishment and further development of
  contacts between different social and professional groups.

The Georgian side welcomes the direct participation of international organisations, regional groupings and, likewise, individual states in the process of a comprehensive settlement of the conflict.

- The Georgian side will appeal to the international community to support the implementation of projects for socio-economic rehabilitation of the Abkhaz region. The Georgian side is ready to consider possibilities for the establishment of special conditions for the development of the economy in Abkhazia. The involvement of the Georgian and Abkhaz populations in joint economic projects is the basis for peaceful coexistence and the improvement of wellbeing.
- The Georgian side stands ready to initiate consultations on involvement of Abkhazia in European regional institutes and projects, including the European Union Neighbourhood Policy, and Black Sea cooperation processes.

The process of comprehensive settlement of the conflict must be implemented on a step-by-step basis, in accordance with a single action plan and without interruption.