

CM/Inf(2008)39

17 November 2008¹

27th Quadripartite meeting between the Council of Europe and the European Union (Brussels, 10 November 2008)

1. The 27th Quadripartite meeting between the Council of Europe and the European Union was held in Brussels on 10 November 2008 at the invitation of the French Presidency of the Council of the European Union.
2. It was attended, on the Council of Europe side, by Mr Carl Bildt, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Sweden, Chair of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, and Ms Maud de Boer-Buquicchio, Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe, and on the European Union side, by Mr Jean-Pierre Jouyet, State Secretary for European Affairs of France, and Mr Karel Kovanda, Deputy Director General in the External Relations Directorate General of the European Commission.
3. A full list of participants is set out in Appendix 1; the Concluding Statement adopted at the end of the meeting is set out in Appendix 2 to this document.
4. The following items were included in the agenda:
 1. The conflict in Georgia and its consequences
 2. Regional co-operation between the European Union and the Council of Europe
 3. Any other business

¹ This document has been classified restricted at the date of issue. Unless the Committee of Ministers decides otherwise, it will be declassified according to the rules set up in Resolution Res(2001)6 on access to Council of Europe documents.

Appendix 1**List of participants****Council of Europe Delegation****Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers**

Mr Carl BILDT	Minister for Foreign Affairs of Sweden
Mr Björn LYRVALL	Director-General for Political Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Mr Axel MOBERG	Director of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Mr Per SJÖGREN	Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Sweden to the Council of Europe
Ms Martina RÄNK	Adviser, Minister of Foreign Affairs
Mrs Irena BUSIC	Press Officer, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Secretariat General

Ms Maud DE BOER-BUQUICCHIO	Deputy Secretary General
Ms Mireille PAULUS	Secretary to the Committee of Ministers
Ms Marja RUOTANEN	Director of the Private Office of the Secretary General and the Deputy Secretary General
Mr Zoltán TAUBNER	Director of External Relations
Mr Torbjørn FRØYSNES	Ambassador, Special Representative of the Secretary General / Director of the Council of Europe Liaison Office with the European Union

EU Delegation**Presidency of the Council**

Mr Jean-Pierre JOUYET	State Secretary for European Affairs of France
Mr Bruno GAIN	Ambassador, Permanent Representative of France to the Council of Europe

General Secretariat of the Council

Ms Baiba ALEKSEJUKA	DG E VI, Desk Council of Europe/Georgia
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European Commission

Mr Karel KOVANDA	Deputy Director General, DG RELEX
Ms Luisella PAVAN-WOOLFE	Representative to the Council of Europe, DG RELEX

Mr Gilbert DUBOIS

Head of Unit, OSCE and Council of Europe, DG RELEX

Appendix 2

Concluding statement

The 27th Quadripartite meeting between the Council of Europe and the European Union was held in Brussels on 10 November 2008 at the invitation of the French Presidency of the European Union.

It was attended, on the Council of Europe side, by Mr Carl Bildt, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Sweden, and Ms Maud de Boer-Buquicchio, Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe, and on the European Union side, by Mr Jean-Pierre Jouyet, State Secretary for European Affairs of France, and Mr Karel Kovanda, Deputy Director General in the External Relations Directorate General of the European Commission.

The participants expressed their concern over the recent conflict in Georgia, and underlined the importance of commitments that Georgia and Russia have undertaken under international law, including their commitments in the Council of Europe, *inter alia* to respect human rights and the territorial integrity and sovereignty of states. They stressed the need to ensure the respect of internationally recognised principles, in particular in the area of human rights, democracy and the rule of law. In this regard, the participants welcomed the Action Plan proposed by the Swedish Presidency of the Council of Europe and called for its swift and unconditional adoption. They stressed that the situation of displaced persons raises serious concerns and highlighted the obligation of Georgia and Russia to ensure full respect of their rights, as well as unrestricted access of humanitarian aid. The participants reiterated their engagement to remain fully involved in efforts to facilitate the stabilisation and normalisation of the situation.

They stressed the importance of intensifying their co-operation with Georgia, primarily as far as the human rights dimension of the crisis is concerned, considering in particular the important number of displaced persons, but also the need for coordination with the relevant international financial institutions and relevant donors, with regards to the reconstruction aspects.

They also discussed co-operation between the European Union and the Council of Europe in the region. Building upon the work already carried out jointly, they agreed to consider ways to enhance their co-operation in order to further consolidate the principles and standards of human rights, democracy and the rule of law in the South-Caucasus.

They agreed to support the development of co-operation between the countries of the region as a means to enhance democratic stability and security for the people. In this respect, they emphasised the need to ensure an active co-operation of the two organisations in the implementation of the future Eastern Partnership of the EU, as well as in other regions where sustained support to a peaceful, democratic and multi-ethnic environment based on common values is needed.

The participants also reaffirmed the need for Belarus to progress further in adopting the fundamental values of democracy, respect for human rights and the rule of law. They reiterated their intention to pursue their efforts and co-operation to this end.