

Press conference held by Javier Solana and Zurab Nogaideli at the Council of the European Union (Brussels, 14 June 2006)

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Council of the European Union, Rue de la Loi, 175, B-1048 Brussels.

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[Javier Solana] Let me start by saying that it is a great pleasure to have today here in Brussels the Prime Minister of Georgia, a country with whom the European Union has very solid and good bilateral relationships. As you know, today has taken place the Donors' Conference to help the Georgian society, the Georgian people. My impression is that the Pledging Conference, or the Donors' Conference has been a success, and we are very happy to have that result. We have been talking also about beyond the Donors' Conference — we have been talking about our bilateral relations. As you know, we have with Georgia an important Action Plan in the context of the Neighbourhood Policy. We are also helping them on some other directions, as you know, on the rule of law, etc. And I would like to say, once again, that they have all our support in the development of the country, in all the problems that they may have in their borders, and we will defend publicly, as I am going to do it now, I mean the territorial integrity of the country. If anything is needed from our side to help, we will always be willing and ready to help. I hope that the relationship with other countries, like the Russian Federation, is, becomes constructive, i.e. I know and I have been informed by the Prime Minister that the meeting of yesterday that took place between President Putin and President Saakashvili, and in principle it was a very good meeting that is going to continue, it is going to continue before the meeting of the G8 in St Petersburg. That means that it will have not only one meeting, but a set of meetings that are going to, I hope, to move on in the right direction. So, once again, it's a great pleasure to meet again with the Prime Minister. He knows that he has here in this house — in the institution of the European Union — a good friend and the will to keep on cooperating in the most comprehensive manner. Mr Prime Minister, do you want to say something?

[Zurab Nogaideli] Thank you very much. Mr Solana, I would like to thank you again personally and, to you, the European Union and Commission and Council for the support you have pledged today during the Donors' Conference organised by the OSCE Chairman-in-Office for the reconstruction of the Tskhinvali Region in South Ossetia, Georgia. The fact that not only the amount of the money you have pledged but the active participation in the construction of one of the regions of Georgia and the conflict resolution there is very important for us, and we are looking forward of use more active engagement in the conflict resolution process itself, which is a very important thing for us. We are also very thankful of the very good rounds of negotiation over the European Neighbourhood Policy Action Plan. I think that we are already approaching the last, you know, the polishing of the document all ready for the signature, and we are thankful for that. We are embarking on a very important and ambitious judiciary reform, and we count very much on your support and Commission and Council support for that. We are thankful for this and we thank you very much again, once again, for affirming support for Georgia's territorial integrity, and the fact that the economic cooperation between you and Georgia will also be supported — what we have just discussed several minutes ago — is very important news we have heard. And we, from our end, I would like to say that we will continue to reform our economy, our political system and we will transform Georgia to the viable democracy.