

## From the Office of the European Union President

At least ten Georgian soldiers and three Russian citizens were killed last night in a missile attack in the separatist region of South Ossetia, close to a Georgian military base. The European Union condemns the attack and criticizes the biased media reports about the incident that could incite further provocations.

The European Union is concerned about US statements in support of Georgia and the commitment to back its ally in case of a Russian attack.

The European Union is also aware of a conflicting statement by an anonymous US official, who warned that America would not support Georgia if it decides to retaliate against Russia.

The European Union calls all parties to refrain from violence and schedules a summit meeting for 8:00 PM Saturday evening. It welcomes the Russian agreement to participate. It also extends an invitation to the US so as to meet the Georgian request that the US co-chair the negotiation.

To prevent further escalation the European Union offers a six-point plan:

1. Georgia and Russia will refrain from any use of violence against each other.
2. Georgia and Russia, jointly, will investigate the events related to the missile strike and offer measures to prevent attacks in the future.
3. Both sides will cooperate to prevent separatist violence in South Ossetia.
4. Both sides will coordinate preparations for an immediate referendum on the future status of South Ossetia.
5. The Russian Federation will immediately reduce the number of Russian peacekeepers in South Ossetia.
6. Georgia will postpone its plans to join NATO.

Fig. 6.1. Scenario format: French mediation plan