

LAST UPDATED: APRIL 24, 2008, 17:30 • TBILISI

## Overview of World Reaction:

International leaders increasingly urge Russia to revoke its decisions, respect Georgia's sovereignty, and support Georgia's plan for peaceful conflict resolution

The international community has roundly condemned the Russian Federation's recent moves toward Georgia, with many leaders calling for a reversal of Moscow's policies. Russia's latest actions include blasting a Georgian aircraft out of Georgian airspace on April 20, and instructing Russian ministries on April 16 to establish links with the separatist regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia in Georgia. Leaders around the world are explicitly urging Russia to reverse its April 16 decision, which constitutes an egregious violation of international law. At the same time, the international community has reiterated support for Georgia's sovereignty, territorial integrity, and efforts toward peaceful conflict resolution. **Key excerpts from world leaders are below.**

### I. INTERNATIONAL CONDEMNATION OF RUSSIA'S ACTIONS

1. **Presidency of the European Union:** "[Russia's] decision risks further increasing tensions and undermines the international peace efforts where the Russian Federation participates too."

FULL TEXT: [http://www.eu2008.si/en/News\\_and\\_Documents/CFSP\\_Statements/April/0418MZZ\\_Gruzija.html](http://www.eu2008.si/en/News_and_Documents/CFSP_Statements/April/0418MZZ_Gruzija.html)

2. **U.S. Department of State:** "We... are concerned by the presence of a MiG-29 aircraft in Georgian airspace without Georgian authorization, and by the use of weapons from this aircraft in shooting down an unarmed Georgian UAV. ...We also reiterate our concern over recent actions by the Russian government to upgrade relations with the Abkhaz and South Ossetian authorities, which challenge Georgian sovereignty and call into question whether Russia can continue to function as a facilitator toward a solution in the region."

FULL TEXT: <http://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2008/apr/103974.htm>

3. **Jaap de Hoop Scheffer, NATO Secretary-General:** "I am deeply concerned by the actions Russia has taken to establish legal links with the Georgian regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia... The Russian steps undermine [Georgia's] sovereignty."

FULL TEXT: <http://www.nato.int/docu/pr/2008/p08-056e.html>

4. **Terry Davis, Secretary-General of the Council of Europe:** "...The intention of the Russian Government contradicts their previous statements upholding the territorial integrity of Georgia."

FULL TEXT: <https://wcd.coe.int/ViewDoc.jsp?id=1278219&Site=DC&BackColorInternet=F5CA75&BackColorIntranet=F5CA75&BackColorLogged=A9BACE>

5. **Lech Kaczynski, President of Poland:** "I urge the international community to condemn [Russia's] steps unilaterally."

FULL TEXT: [http://www.mfa.gov.ge/index.php?lang\\_id=ENG&sec\\_id=461&info\\_id=6338&date=2008-04-18&new\\_month=04&new\\_year=2008](http://www.mfa.gov.ge/index.php?lang_id=ENG&sec_id=461&info_id=6338&date=2008-04-18&new_month=04&new_year=2008)

6. **Toomas Hendrik Ilves, President of Estonia:** "The Russian decree we think is provocative, counterproductive and ultimately wrong..."

FULL TEXT: <http://www.reuters.com/article/newsOne/idUSN1828375520080418>

7. **Valdas Adamkus, President of Lithuania:** "Such actions destabilise [the] situation and threaten security and stability in the whole region."

FULL TEXT: <http://www.president.lt/en/news.full/8971>

8. **Carl Bildt, Foreign Minister of Sweden:** “[The] news that Moscow will be taking a number of measures to establish closer ties with the Georgian areas of Abkhazia and South Ossetia is deeply disquieting.”  
FULL TEXT: <http://www.sweden.gov.se/sb/d/10022/a/103337>
9. **John McCain, U.S. Senator:** “[Russia’s April 16] move is in violation of international law and deserves strong condemnation by all countries committed to the rule of law...”  
FULL TEXT: <http://www.johnmccain.com/Informing/News/PressReleases/63736cb6-bf39-4365-8373-263761596131.htm>
10. **Hillary Clinton, U.S. Senator:** “Moscow’s actions... undermine the territorial integrity of the state of Georgia and are clearly designed to destabilize the government of President Mikheil Saakashvili.”  
FULL TEXT: <http://www.hillaryclinton.com/news/release/view?id=7171>
11. **Barack Obama, U.S. Senator:** “Putin’s decree establishing closer governmental and legal relations with the Georgian regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia, without the approval of the Georgian government, is deeply troubling and contrary to Russia’s obligations as a permanent member of the UN Security Council.”  
FULL TEXT: [http://www.barackobama.com/2008/04/21/statement\\_of\\_senator\\_obama\\_on.php](http://www.barackobama.com/2008/04/21/statement_of_senator_obama_on.php)
12. **European Parliament Delegation to the South Caucasus:** “[Russia’s] steps undermine the principle of territorial integrity of Georgia, as stipulated by all relevant UN resolutions and question Russia’s role of the impartial moderator in the peace process.”  
FULL TEXT: [http://www.mfa.gov.ge/index.php?lang\\_id=ENG&sec\\_id=78&info\\_id=6368](http://www.mfa.gov.ge/index.php?lang_id=ENG&sec_id=78&info_id=6368)

## **II. CALLS FOR REVERSAL OF APRIL 16 AND MARCH 3 DECISIONS**

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1. **Presidency of the European Union:** “The EU calls on the Russian Federation not to implement its decision.”  
FULL TEXT: [http://www.eu2008.si/en/News\\_and\\_Documents/CFSP\\_Statements/April/0418MZZ\\_Gruzija.html](http://www.eu2008.si/en/News_and_Documents/CFSP_Statements/April/0418MZZ_Gruzija.html)
2. **Joint Communiqué of Great Britain, France, Germany & U.S.:** “We call on the Russian Federation to revoke or not to implement its decision.”
3. **Jan Kubiš, Chairman of the Committee of Ministers, Council of Europe:** The Chairman “calls on the Russian Federation to reconsider and not to implement its recent decision...”  
FULL TEXT: <http://www.coe.int>
4. **Jaap de Hoop Scheffer, NATO Secretary-General:** “I urge the Russian Federation to reverse these measures.”  
FULL TEXT: <http://www.nato.int/docu/pr/2008/p08-056e.html>

## **III. SUPPORT FOR GEORGIA’S TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY & PEACE PLAN**

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1. **Presidency of the European Union:** “The EU reiterates its firm commitment to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Georgia within its internationally recognised borders as reaffirmed in the UNSC resolution 1808 of 15 April 2008. ... The EU welcomes the fact that the Georgian President put forward a new initiative for the peaceful resolution of the conflict in Abkhazia, Georgia...”  
FULL TEXT: [http://www.eu2008.si/en/News\\_and\\_Documents/CFSP\\_Statements/April/0418MZZ\\_Gruzija.html](http://www.eu2008.si/en/News_and_Documents/CFSP_Statements/April/0418MZZ_Gruzija.html)
2. **Joint Communiqué of Great Britain, France, Germany & U.S.:** “We... welcome that the Georgian President has recently put forward a new initiative for the peaceful resolution of the conflict in Abkhazia, Georgia.”
3. **Robert Pszczel, NATO Deputy Spokesman:** “When it comes to [NATO] principles, we stick to them. The territorial integrity of Georgia, like other countries, is paramount.”

4. **U.S. Department of State:** “The United States welcomes the new initiatives put forward by the Georgian president to advance a negotiated political resolution of the Abkhazia conflict. We urge the de facto authorities in Abkhazia to seriously consider these initiatives...”

FULL TEXT: <http://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2008/apr/103732.htm>

5. **European Parliament Delegation to the South Caucasus:** “The Delegation reiterates its support for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Georgia and supports the new proposals of the President of Georgia aiming at facilitating the peaceful resolution of the conflicts on the territory of Georgia...”

FULL TEXT: [http://www.mfa.gov.ge/index.php?lang\\_id=ENG&sec\\_id=78&info\\_id=6368](http://www.mfa.gov.ge/index.php?lang_id=ENG&sec_id=78&info_id=6368)