

		
European Commission	United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia	United Nations Development Programme

For Immediate Release

PRESS RELEASE

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JOINT EC-UNOMIG-UNDP REHABILITATION PROGRAM IN THE CONFLICT ZONE

The First Meeting of the Steering Committee for the Rehabilitation Program in the conflict zone was held on 6 December 2005 in Sukhumi, under the Co-Chair of the Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General, Ambassador Heidi Tagliavini, the Head of the Delegation of the European Commission (EC), Ambassador Torben Holtze and the UNDP Resident Representative, Mr. Robert Watkins, with the participation of the Georgian and Abkhaz parties and the Group of Friends of the UN Secretary-General.

The Georgian delegation was headed by Mr. Giorgi Khaindrava and the Abkhaz delegation – by Mr. Sergei Shamba.

The Group of Friends was represented by Ambassador Uwe Schramm of Germany as coordinator, Ambassador John Tefft of the United States, Mr. Ivan Volynkin, Minister-Counsellor of the Embassy of the Russian Federation, Ms. Fabienne Drouot-Lozinski, Counsellor of the Embassy of France and Mr. William Robinson, Secretary of the Embassy of the United Kingdom.

The Rehabilitation Program is a joint effort by the European Commission, which will finance the Program, as well as UNOMIG and UNDP, the primary implementing partners. The Program consists of two phases, which are expected to be carried out within the next two to three years. The First Phase will begin by the end of this year and amounts to an estimated two million Euros. The Program is aimed at improving the living conditions of the population mostly affected by the conflict through the restoration of basic services such as electricity, public health, water sanitation, waste-management, and agricultural development. It will also serve to build confidence and enhance security and stability in the area.

At the First Meeting Phase One of Rehabilitation Program was launched, which includes rehabilitation efforts in the fields of electricity, public health and agriculture in the Gali, Ochamchira and Tkvarcheli districts on the Abkhaz side and in the Zugdidi district on the Georgian side of the cease-fire line. Both sides agreed to actively cooperate in the implementation of the Rehabilitation Program and to work towards ensuring the necessary security conditions.

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