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## MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AND NATURAL RESOURCES OF GEORGIA

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United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
Environment, Housing and Land Management Division,
Secretariat to Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context.

Expert Adviser, Nick Bonvoisin

Dear Mr. Bonvoisin,

Thank you very much for your letter of September 4, 2008 concerning work programme for the Belgrade Initiative on Strategic Environmental Assessment.

We would like to inform you that

- 1. Georgia will participate in the Initiative;
- 2. We agree with the finalized work programme;
- 3. The Ministry nominates Mr Nikoloz Tchakhnakia Head of Service of Licenses and Permits, as the national focal point for the Initiative.

EECCA countries have limited experience with SEA. It is our understanding that cooperation among the neighbors is one way to implement the Protocol in practice. We are planning to identify areas of the mutual interest with neighboring countries through the consultations with relevant counterparts. For instance, climate change impact on pastures in transboundary Georgia -Azerbaijan region could be the issue where the SEA could be applied during planning of mitigation and adaptation programs. This would provide an example of

effective procedural and analytical approaches which meet the requirements of the Protocol, as well as support sustainable development of neighboring countries.

Finally, we appreciate the cooperation with the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe that provides useful framework for collaboration towards environmental improvements in the region.

Yours sincerely,

Gocha Mamatzashvili

Deputy of Minister