

# EU monitors gear up for vital Georgia mission

An EU mission of 300 observers is about to start monitoring the Russian military withdrawal from buffer zones around Georgia's breakaway regions of South Ossetia and Abkhazia. Under a French-brokered ceasefire, Russia has 10 days to withdraw its forces once the EU observers are in place

**EU MISSION:** Main contributing countries include France, Germany, Italy, Poland, Romania and Sweden. Most monitors unarmed, protected with light armoured vehicles

★ EU field offices    ■ Buffer zones    ★ Russian army bases

## MANDATE UNCLEAR



**EU:** Says monitors should have unfettered access to all of Georgia, including Abkhazia and South Ossetia



**Russia:** Insists monitors will not enter regions, which it has recognised as independent states and where it plans to retain 7,600 troops

