



## CHECHNYA PEACE FORUM

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### **EU leaders' chance to test Russia's new approach**

Sir, Charles Clover ("[Russian resolve counters fears of domino effect](#)", August 29) correctly observes that the same Russian logic used to recognise South Ossetia and Abkhazia could also apply to subverted areas of the Russian Federation - most prominently in Chechnya. As European Union leaders meet for emergency talks on Russia, the same rationale must surely give rise to the realisation that Russia's apparent U-turn towards independence movements has in fact afforded Europe's democracies a great opportunity to challenge Russia's latest line.

EU leaders could now test Russia's conviction in its new approach by backing a UN Security Council resolution that would recognise the independence of Chechnya. Such a move could herald a new era of peace and stability in the Caucasus, and it would certainly be enlightening to see whether President Dmitry Medvedev, who last week avowed that "every people has a right to self-determination", would then see fit to exercise Russia's veto.

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