



EMBASSY OF GEORGIA TO THE REPUBLICS OF AUSTRIA AND HUNGARY  
PERMANENT MISSION OF GEORGIA TO THE OSCE AND OTHER  
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN VIENNA

**Statement by Georgian Delegation**

*(as delivered by Ambassador Victor Dolidze at 625<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Permanent Council)  
Vienna, 14 September 2006*

Mr. Chairman,

Georgian delegation regrets that it has to raise yet again the situation in the zone of conflict in Tskhinvali region, as indeed alarming incidents are taking place.

As objectively documented in numerous OSCE Mission reports, provocative acts by illegal armed formations in the region increase in numbers, including those of terrorist character, about which we stated at the PC last week. Since then another serious incident resulting in casualties took place in Tskhinvali Region.

The confirmed reports indicate that on September 8, 2006, Georgian law-enforcers succeeded in their efforts to prevent a group of separatists smuggling another shipment of goods from the Tskhinvali region. The detention operation was still underway when fire was opened from the so-called Ossetian militia checkpoint. As a result, one Georgian policeman died and three law-enforcers receiving gunshot wounds were taken to hospital in Gori. The Georgian side is now being hampered in carrying out investigative measures on the territory where the incident took place.

This fact raises serious doubts that another attempt is being made to smuggle weapons or drugs.

It is obvious that what takes place is yet another attempt aimed at destabilizing the situation in the region and can be seen as an effort to torpedo the realization of the Georgia's peace initiatives (Peace Plan).

The incident served as another incontrovertible evidence of the extreme unwillingness of Russian peacekeepers and their command to contribute to the peace process. Furthermore, Russian led peacekeeping operations failed to solve any of the persisting problems.

There are many self-evident indicators of the fact that the Russian Federation is a side in conflicts, and not an impartial facilitator. The last ones are the statements of the highest representatives of Russian political leadership on direct support of the illegal referendum on independence of Tskhinvali Region/South Ossetia, Georgia, planned on 12 November, and possible sending there representatives of Russian State Duma as observers. It is obvious that secessionist authorities and their supporters are wasting time and effort on the organization of the referendum. No one will recognize the result of such a referendum.

Mr. Chairman,

The peace processes of existing formats in Tskhinvali Region/South Ossetia, Georgia and in Abkhazia, Georgia have not resulted in tangible outcomes so far. The current situation is wrongly perceived as a *status quo*; in fact, situation is deteriorating, as ineffective and biased peacekeeping and negotiating formats are directly contributing to destabilization and crawling annexation of Georgia's territories.

Finally, let me state once again – Remaining firmly committed to peaceful settlement of the conflict, the Georgian side believes that only direct involvement of genuinely impartial facilitators and guarantors, and implementation of all effective peace building measures can guarantee prevention of provocations and insure consistent progress of the peace processes.

Thank you.