



Delegation of Ukraine
to the OSCE

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**Statement in response to Ambassador Hansjoerg Haber,
Head of the European Union Monitoring Mission (EUMM) in Georgia,**

As for delivery by Mr. Oleh Herasymenko, Deputy Permanent Representative of Ukraine,
at the 37th Joint Meeting of the FSC and PC
11 February 2009

Madam Chairperson, Mr. Chairman,

On behalf of the Ukrainian delegation I would like to warmly welcome Ambassador Hansjörg Haber to the Joint FSC-PC meeting and thank him for the informative report. I also thank Ambassador Salber for his presentation.

Ukraine strongly supports the efforts of the European Union to assist in guaranteeing stability and security in Georgia. The EU monitoring mission is an invaluable asset in this process. We were disappointed to hear from Ambassador Haber about the difficulties the monitors experience in their activities on the ground. Ukraine urges all sides to fully implement the ceasefire agreements by presidents Sarkozy and Medvedev which provide the basis for the Mission's operation.

Ukraine is deeply concerned about the security and human rights situation in the areas within and around the administrative boundary lines with South Ossetia and Abkhazia. The mentioned incidents which resulted in deaths of Georgian law enforcement officers and civilians risk escalating the tense situation in the region and highlight the urgent need to establish an incident prevention mechanism between the sides. We call upon the Russian Federation, who is responsible for security in the separatist regions and for ensuring that instability does not spread from them into the rest of Georgia, to engage constructively in the framework of the Geneva talks in order to establish such a mechanism.

We reiterate our strong support for the international monitors in the region, and condemn all acts that endanger their safety. We welcome the signing on 26 January of a Memorandum of Understanding between the European Union Monitoring Mission and the Ministry of Defence of Georgia, and would like to encourage the Russian Federation to consider reciprocating this step. Ukraine highly appreciates the informative reports of the OSCE MMOs, and once again calls for their safe and unfettered access to South Ossetia.

Ukraine is closely following the efforts of the Greek Chairmanship to find a solution which would allow the OSCE to carry on its valuable presence in Georgia, including South Ossetia. Such a solution must be based on full respect for the principles of independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Georgia within its internationally recognized borders. We deeply regret that a consensus on the extension of the mandate of the OSCE Mission to Georgia could not be reached at the end of last year. We commend the determination and energy which the Greek Chairmanship dedicates to this matter since the beginning of the year and look forward to positive results. In this connection and referring to the statement by Ambassador Salber, I wish to express our particular appreciation to the Conflict Prevention Centre for their hard work and contribution the CPC is making in support of the Chairmanship's endeavors on this track.

In conclusion allow me also to wish Ambassador Haber and his dedicated staff every success in their future work.

I thank you.