



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

**Statement as delivered by the Permanent Representative of Georgia,
Ambassador Konstantin Zaldastanishvili
in response to the address by the Federal Minister for European and International Affairs of
the Republic of Austria H.E. Mr. Sebastian Kurz
at the 982nd meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council
Vienna, January 29, 2013**

Mr. Chairman,

At the outset let me join previous speakers in warmly welcoming the distinguished representative of our host country H.E. Mr. Sebastian Kurz to the Permanent Council meeting and congratulate him on his appointment as Austrian Federal Minister for European and International Affairs.

Georgia enjoys excellent relations with the Republic of Austria both in bilateral and multilateral formats. Last year we celebrated the twentieth anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between our two counties.

Georgia highly values the cooperation with Austria in the OSCE. Herewith, let me take the opportunity to thank Federal Minister personally and whole Austrian Government for hosting the OSCE in Vienna.

We are grateful and highly appreciate the support rendered by the Austrian side to the European integration process of Georgia and hope that Association Agreement between Georgia and EU will be signed no later than August this year. This will bring our country closer to the EU.

We attach great importance to active participation of Austrian representatives in EUMM in Georgia and express gratitude for firm support of Georgia's Territorial integrity and sovereignty.

The Economic and cultural relations between our two countries are being developed quite dynamically and we expect that this trend will be further enhanced. I am pleased to state that Georgia is one of the priority countries for Austrian Development Cooperation.

We commend the work of Austrian Chairmanship of the Council of Europe and hope that cooperation between the OSCE and Council of Europe will be further strengthened and intensified under the Austrian CoE Chairmanship.

I would like to seize this opportunity and renew the invitation of my Minister to you, Your Excellency to visit Georgia. We are really looking forward to this visit.

In conclusion I would like to once again greet H.E. Mr. Sebastian Kurz to the Permanent Council meeting and wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.