



**PERMANENT DELEGATION
OF NORWAY TO THE OSCE**

Statement on the latest developments in Georgia
As delivered by Ambassador Guttorm Vik
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
7 May 2009

Madam Chairperson,

Norway is seriously concerned by the signing of the agreements on the joint protection of borders between Russia and the Georgian breakaway regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia. The agreements are in breach of the August 12 six-point agreement and OSCE commitments, and they constitute an additional violation of Georgia's sovereignty and territorial integrity. Norway therefore urges Russia to reverse these agreements.

Let me also take this opportunity to reiterate our full support for the Geneva process and the efforts of the Greek Chairmanship to secure a robust OSCE presence in Georgia. Norway calls upon all parties, and the Russian Federation in particular, to work towards this end without further delay.

Like the EU, we are deeply concerned about the shooting incident on 2 May. We strongly condemn this act of violence against OSCE staff.

Finally, Madam Chairperson, let me also echo the EU's expression of concern about the problems experienced by the three Co-Chairs of the Geneva talks in obtaining free access to South Ossetia, Georgia, as you described in your oral report.

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.