



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

**S t a t e m e n t**

of the Delegation of Georgia

at the 910<sup>th</sup> session of the OSCE Permanent Council

Vienna, May 3, 2012

Mr. Chairperson,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Delegation of Georgia I would like to express deep concern of the Georgian side regarding the cancellation of the April 24 Gali meeting of the Incident Prevention and Response Mechanism, as well as the imminent danger of not having the EU Monitoring Mission (EUMM) participate in the future meetings of the Mechanisms.

We would like to stress the importance of the Incident Prevention and Response Mechanisms as key instruments for dispelling tensions and building confidence on the ground. Hence, we find it completely unacceptable that Moscow and its proxy regimes are attempting to unilaterally change the format and modalities of the meetings, thus undermining the whole process of the Geneva International Discussions. It should be noted that the procedural and agenda-related aspects of the IPRMs and Geneva meetings have been agreed by all participants and observance of the established rules is absolutely crucial for maintaining smooth continuation of the negotiation process. Thus, we would like to once again call upon the Russian side to act responsibly and refrain from hampering the functioning of the mechanisms, which, in turn, entails a risk to breakdown the existing dialogue formats, as well as the whole negotiation process.

Furthermore, let me emphasize that the recent demarche against the EUMM is just one component in the whole chain of actions aimed at diminishing the role of the international organizations acting in Georgia. To name the few, the

cancellation of the Gali IPRM was preceded by the continuous attempts of Moscow to limit the role of the EUMM and the OSCE in the Tskhinvali IPRM, as well as barring the entry of EUMM monitors to the occupied regions, and refusing the establishment of the strong UN and OSCE presence on the ground. These and other demarches against EUMM clearly demonstrate that the Russian side is uncomfortable with a neutral and impartial international presence on the territory of Georgia.

Once again, the Georgian side calls on Moscow to ensure that the work of the IPRMs and the Geneva International Discussions proceeds in an unhindered way and that the objections regarding the role of the EUMM in the IPRMs and the Geneva International Discussions are promptly removed. The Georgian side also calls on the international community to adequately assess the situation and strengthen the dialogue with Moscow over the necessity to fulfill its international obligations, including the withdrawal of the Russian troops and allowing the international monitors to the occupied regions.

Meanwhile, we are confident that the opportunity to ensure the functioning of the IPRMs still remains open. A sufficient momentum has been created by EU's reaction to this alarming development and the prompt engagement of the EU Special Representative on the matter, who is visiting Georgia, Tbilisi and Sokhumi and is in contact with Moscow. We do hope that the Russian side will demonstrate flexibility and constructive and responsible approach in such a decisive phase, enabling us to reach consensus on the full resumption of the Gali IPRM within the previously agreed format.

Thank you.