



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

STATEMENT
of the Permanent Representative of Georgia to the OSCE
Mr. Paata Gaprindashvili

In response to the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media

*Delivered at the 825th Meeting of the Permanent Council
Vienna, 29 July 2010*

Mr. Chairman,

First of all I would like to warmly welcome the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media Ms. Mijatovic at the Permanent Council and thank her for presenting her first and very thorough regular report on issues of the media freedom.

Georgia has constantly supported the role played by the Office of the RFoM in assisting the participating States to implement their commitments. We appreciate continuous interest of the Representative's office in reforms and developments taking place in Georgia and are thrilled that Georgia was the very first country which hosted Ms. Mijatovic in April of 2010 in the capacity of the Representative on Freedom of the Media.

Issues regarding freedom of the media are high on the agenda of the Georgian Authorities and the Georgian public. Significant progress has been made in number of important areas. Nevertheless, we recognize that shortcomings remain and we need to do more to fully comply with high international standards. We reiterate our determination to further intensively work on tackling all existing problems, including through active cooperation with the Office of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media.

Let me say few words about "South Caucasus Media Conference" which, for the past 6 years, has become a good yearly tradition in Tbilisi, hosting participants from the countries in the region and constituting a good deal of contribution in the process of developing free media in the whole region. We reaffirm our readiness to closely cooperate with your office Ms. Mijatovic, in organizing the upcoming media conference in November and ensuring fruitful deliberations and successful outcome.

Finally, let me take this opportunity to once again express my deep appreciation to Ms. Mijatovic and her team for their work and to wish you, dear Ms. Mijatovic, every success in your future endeavours.

Thank you.