



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

As delivered by the Permanent Representative of Georgia to the OSCE,

Ambassador Paata Gaprindashvili

In response to the address by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, H.E.

Mr. K. Gryshchenko

at the 917<sup>th</sup> special meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council

Vienna, June 20, 2012

Mr. Chairman,

I am delighted to greet the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, H.E. Mr. K. Gryshchenko at the Special Permanent Council meeting today and thank him for his comprehensive presentation.

Mr. Minister,

Important work lies ahead of us in terms of strengthening the role of the OSCE in all dimensions of its unique approach to security and transforming it into a more effective and resolute organization. Georgia welcomes Ukraine's determination to focus on the implementation of our common commitments in all three dimensions, which will only reinforce the OSCE's commitment to safeguard peace, security and stability in the OSCE area. We hope, Mr. Minister, that your guidance will help us to effectively address existing challenges and make progress towards accomplishment of our affirmed goals. On our part, we would like to assure you of our support for the initiatives and activities of the Ukrainian Chairman-in-Office, aiming at making the OSCE a true security

community – one free of dividing lines, conflicts, and spheres of influence, a community, in which human rights are respected and people live in dignity.

We are pleased that the peaceful resolution of existing conflicts within the OSCE area with full respect of the fundamental principles and norms of international law and the OSCE commitments constitutes a high priority of Ukraine. Let me reiterate our conviction that the OSCE's extensive toolbox of instruments, mechanisms and procedures in all three dimensions should be actively applied for achieving progress towards resolving these conflicts. Moreover, we undoubtedly need to further streamline these mechanisms in order to make them more relevant to the OSCE existing challenges.

We will actively support Ukraine's efforts to further activate the Economic and Environmental Dimension of the OSCE in service of peace, stability and prosperity of the OSCE region. Georgia is looking forward to our future cooperation also in exploring the potential of the Economic and Environmental Dimension for building confidence and trust between divided societies.

We welcome Ukraine's intention to strengthen the human dimension, a cornerstone of our concept of comprehensive security and achieve full respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. The strong role of ODIHR, HCNM, and RFoM is central in ensuring the implementation of the OSCE Human Dimension commitments in good faith and enhancement of democratic institutions and the rule of law in the context of indisputable aspirations of people to live in peace and security and align with the democratic values.

Mr. Chairperson,

Based on our common past, similar challenges and joint vision for the regional peace, stability and development, Ukraine and Georgia made a firm choice for European future. Both countries share common European aspiration and are committed to a long-term strategic foreign policy goal of the integration into the EU. We are pleased that since the launch of Eastern Partnership in May 2009, significant steps have been taken to strengthen and deepen EU relations with Ukraine and Georgia, together with other partner countries. We believe that a step-by-step approach and use of all possible cooperation instruments will help us to achieve our ultimate goal.

Furthermore, Ukraine and Georgia actively cooperate in the framework of the GUAM. Our main goal is to strengthen regional security, stability, partnership and integration in the Black sea – Caspian Sea regions, including, through developing social, economic, transport, energy, technical and humanitarian potential of the Parties and intensification of political cooperation in the field of mutual interest.

Finally, let me once again emphasize that Georgia highly values special relations and friendship that two countries and two people enjoy, grounded on close historic and human ties. We are committed to further deepen partnership, and to reiterate the words from the recent Joint Statement of the Ministers of Foreign affairs of Georgia and Ukraine, “to further diversify and expand political and economic relations, increase cooperation for promotion of regional peace, development and prosperity and further encourage people-to-people contacts to the benefit of both nations”.

In the end, Mr. Chairperson, let me once again thank our esteemed guest and wish him success in his future endeavors as the upcoming Chairmanship-in-Office of the OSCE.

Thank You!