

Canadian Delegation to the
Organization for Security & Cooperation
in Europe



ENGLISH only
Délégation du Canada auprès de
l'Organisation pour la sécurité et la coopération
en Europe

**DELEGATION OF CANADA TO THE OSCE
STATEMENT BY YVES BEAULIEU, CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES
ON THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF GEORGIAN CONFLICT
771ST MEETING OF THE PERMANENT COUNCIL
30 JULY 2009**

- The conflict in Georgia clearly demonstrated the danger of leaving protracted conflicts unresolved.
- Canada is strongly committed to Georgia's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity.
- Canada is alarmed by the humanitarian situation in Georgia, especially in the breakaway regions. Access by international presence in the whole of Georgia is of vital importance to avoid violence and respect for human rights.
- It is regrettable that we failed to agree on a continued OSCE presence in Georgia, at a time when such a presence is more needed than ever. We therefore - once again - urge Russia to join the other participating States in order to reach consensus on the Chairmanship's Draft Decision – which remains on the table for adoption.
- While we agree that the proposals for the OSCE mission to continue its work in Georgia were indeed blocked - we and the rest of the OSCE participating States remember that only one participating State blocked any possible compromises or approaches for the continuation of the OSCE mission.
- Any attempt to rewrite history is futile. A forward looking approach would be much more constructive.

We would request this statement to be attached to the Journal of the Day.

Merci Madame la Présidente