



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

at the 904th session of the OSCE Permanent Council

Vienna, March 8, 2012

Mr. Chairman,

Dear Colleagues,

Allow me to bring to your attention the recent fact of military provocation occurred from the occupied territory of Abkhazia. On March 4 six servicemen of the occupying armed forces opened fire with the automatic weapons and RPG-7 rocket-propelled grenade launchers towards a Georgian police checkpoint near the village of Ganmukhuri, Zugdidi district. The attack lasted for 10 minutes and we have been fortunate that it ended without casualties. Please note that this was the first use of the rocket propelled grenade launchers in more than two years – what gives a serious ground of concern for the destabilization of the security situation on the ground.

The Georgian side would like to once again urge the OSCE participating States to call on Russia to stop military provocations against Georgia, undertake a non-use of force commitment, engage in a constructive dialogue with the Georgian authorities and fully co-operate with the EU Monitoring Mission in Georgia, including through allowing it to fully implement its mandate.

Dear Colleagues,

In reference to the Presidential elections held in Russia on March 4, 2012, I would like to draw your attention to the following:

As part of the Russian Presidential elections, Russian authorities have illegally opened 21 so called “polling stations” in the Russian occupied Georgian regions of Abkhazia and Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia. These stations were provided for the servicemen of the occupying Russian armed forces and the population residing in the regions who hold Russian passports as a result of massive illegal “passportization” conducted by Russia.

This action clearly undermines Russia’s commitments to the OSCE as well as the fundamental principles and norms of the international law as organizing and conducting elections on the territory of another sovereign state, without its prior consent, constitutes a flagrant violation of the principles of sovereignty, territorial integrity and non-interference.

It is of an utmost importance, that the international community gives an adequate assessment to Russia’s illegal act of operating the polling stations for the Russian Presidential elections on the occupied territories of Georgia.

Thank you.