



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

**Georgian Statement in response to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of  
Ukraine, H.E. Mr. Konstantyn Gryshchenko**

Mr. Chairman,

Let me warmly welcome the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, H.E. Mr. Konstantyn Gryshchenko at the OSCE Special Permanent Council meeting and thank him for the comprehensive address.

Ukraine is a leading strategic partner of Georgia. Two countries have forged close political, economic and cultural relations and have undertaken sustainable reforms to develop stable and democratic states. Our bilateral relations, as well as the cooperation within the multilateral organizations is a good example of good neighbourly relations. Ukraine's unwavering support to Georgia's territorial integrity is an important element of the regional stability in Eastern Europe. Recent visit of Foreign Minister Vashadze to Ukraine once again reconfirmed that the governments of the two countries share the same vision of the regional security and the need for enhanced cooperation.

As it was underlined in the EU statement, Ukraine has the particular importance for the European security and for the overall stability and democratic development of the region.

We therefore fully support and welcome Ukraine's intention to assume the OSCE Chairmanship and contribute to the increased effectiveness of our Organization. We particularly support Ukraine's quest to promote implementation of the adopted commitments and increase effectiveness of the OSCE executive structures. We regard Ukraine's aspiration as a sign of the importance that it attaches to our shared values, norms and principles. We believe that Ukraine's Chairmanship will bring an added value to ongoing reflections about the future of European security..

We fully share the vision of the Foreign Minister of Ukraine according to which the - OSCE capacity in conflict resolution and post-conflict rehabilitation should be further enhanced, including by its presence in the conflict areas.

The Russia-Georgia war of August 2008 demonstrated that protracted conflicts remain the greatest threat to European security. Furthermore, this war has shown how important is to have a political will to solve the problems. One lesson that we have learnt from August 2008 is that OSCE's already limited capabilities become almost fully irrelevant once it ceases to be present on the ground in the conflict affected areas. Therefore, it is essential that our thinking in the months and years to come is aimed at re-establishing the OSCE presences in the areas, where it has been lost and remaining fully engaged where there is a need for OSCE activities on the ground. We hope that Ukraine's vision and efforts in this direction will be instrumental.

Indeed, today we need to improve the set of tools to make sure that our shared principles and values are fully respected and that the same level of security, freedom and justice is enjoyed by everyone in Europe. We are determined to continue our fruitful cooperation with the current and the

future chairmanships based on the respect of these principles and enhance the comprehensive and indivisible security throughout the OSCE area.

Finally, we reiterate our readiness to fully support the Ukrainian Chairmanship within GUAM – the Organization for Democracy and Economic Development. The GUAM has always enjoyed successful cooperation with the OSCE, contributing to its efforts towards comprehensive security in all three dimensions.

We therefore hope that GUAM will be invited at the OSCE informal Ministerial in Almaty along with other international organizations and bring an added value to overall Corfu process and security discussions.

Thank you Mr. Chairman