



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

S t a t e m e n t

of the Delegation of Georgia

at the 916th session of the OSCE Permanent Council

In response to the address of the Foreign Minister of Albania, Chairman of

the Committee of Ministers of the CoE H.E. Mr. Edmond Haxhinasto

Vienna, June 14, 2012

Mr. Chairperson,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The delegation of Georgia wishes to join other speakers in welcoming the Albanian Foreign Minister, Chairman of the Committee of Ministers of the CoE H.E. Mr. Edmond Haxhinasto to the PC and thanks him for presenting the priorities for the rotating 6-month chairmanship. We believe that the vision of the Albanian chairmanship adequately complements the existing political agenda of the Council of Europe, as the priorities are aimed at upholding and promoting core values of the Council of Europe throughout the European continent.

Your Excellency, I shall particularly emphasize that addressing the political and human rights consequences of the aggression against Georgia in 2008 and occupation of the Georgian territories remain the crucial challenge for Europe and European organizations. It is indeed important that the

Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe keeps the issue high on its political agenda. The agenda item – the Council of Europe and the Conflict in Georgia - is a standing item of the meetings of the Committee of Ministers' Deputies of the Council of Europe and the inclusion of the relevant item in the agenda of the most recent Ministerial meeting clearly confirms the firm stance of the decision-making body of the Council of Europe on the matter. In fact, regular review of the situation ensures that the member states and relevant structures of the Secretariat in Strasbourg are kept abreast on the developments on the ground, including on matters related to the protection of human rights. We are aware that the Albanian chairmanship intends to maintain the existing approach and I would like to express our deep appreciation to you Minister, and your team working on CoE issues.

Dear Minister, I would like to state that both the OSCE and CoE play intrinsic role in defending and promoting common European values. In this regard, I should emphasize that the Georgian authorities remain strongly in favor of closer co-operation, better co-ordination and interaction between Strasbourg and Vienna. As you rightly mentioned, we should ensure the synergies and exclude the parallelism and duplication in our work, as our resources, both financial and human are quite limited.

I would like to conclude my intervention by once again thanking you, Your Excellency, for addressing the Permanent Council and wish you best of success in your future endeavors.

Thank you.