

Canadian Delegation to the  
Organization for Security & Cooperation  
in Europe



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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  
RESPONSE TO AMBASSADOR HEIDI TAGLIAVINI, DIPLOMAT IN  
RESIDENCE AT THE GENEVA CENTER FOR SECURITY POLICY  
811<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE PERMANENT COUNCIL  
27 MAY 2010**

Thank you Mr. Chairperson,

- Canada would like to join others in warmly welcoming Ms. Tagliavini to the PC and we would like to thank her for her presentation today.
- We would like to begin today by reiterating Canada's strong support for Georgia's sovereignty and territorial integrity within its internationally recognized borders.
- We would like to repeat our belief that the OSCE and its institutions, notably ODIHR and the High Commissioner for National Minorities, should be allowed to return to Georgia, to continue the invaluable conflict prevention and capacity building work of our organisation in all war effected regions of the country.
- Earlier this year Georgia's Vice Prime Minister, Mr. Yakobashvili, presented Georgia's ambitious strategy to resolve the conflict to the PC. We welcome this proactive initiative to engage the populations of Abkhazia and South Ossetia in important areas of both economic and social benefits.
- We note that the strategy makes a number of crucial points, chief amongst them is the rejection of a military solution and we strongly applaud Georgia for rejecting this option.
- We are convinced that Georgia's focus on cooperation and particularly engagement is a constructive approach to reaching out to the residents of Abkhazia and South Ossetia and for finding a way forward.
- We note the absence of the de facto authorities of Abkhazia and South Ossetia from the strategy and continue to recommend that Georgia engage with them, despite the difficulties inherent in doing so. We must not forget that the de facto authorities are also part of the "target populations" of these regions cited in the strategy.

- At that time we also encouraged Georgia to include a reference to the Geneva Talks in the strategy, as the talks are currently the only means of engagement between Georgia and the de facto authorities and Russian officials.
- We repeat our encouragement for Georgia and the other parties to continue their participation in the Geneva Talks, as sustained and constructive engagement by all parties is necessary in order to achieve real progress. We urge all parties to the conflict to redouble their efforts at finding a peaceful and lasting solution.

Questions:

- Since the release of the Tagliavini report could Ms. Tagliavini give us her views on what, if anything, she would like to add or change?

Thank you