

20 March 2009



ENGLISH only

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

In response to the ODIHR Director Ambassador Lenarcic

**Delivered at the 755th Meeting of the
Permanent Council**

19 March 2009

Madam Chairperson,

I would like to warmly welcome Ambassador Janez Lenarcic to this forum once again and would like to thank him for his interesting and comprehensive report on the ODIHR activities and plans for this year.

While having aligned with the Statement of the European Union, I would like to add a few words in my national capacity as well.

Georgia maintains its utmost respect to the activities of ODIHR. For us the third dimension of the OSCE is extremely important and we view it as an inalienable part of the current European security architecture. No debate about the future of European security can be productive if the role of the ODIHR and other institutions of similar functions are not strengthened and given priority. Work of ODIHR in election monitoring, furthering respect of human rights and individual freedoms shows vividly important connection between the security and democracy in the OSCE area.

Madam Chairperson,

We particularly commend the ODIHR for its engagement in the important task of protecting the human rights and fundamental rights of all persons affected by the August 2008 war between Georgia and Russia. Report which was published late last year by ODIHR on the situation in the occupied Georgian territories represents a comprehensive description of the ethnic cleansing that had taken place during the war. It is absolutely necessary for the addressees of the recommendations of the Report to implement the recommendations in good faith, to make sure that the security and stability in these regions is maintained and the persons either still residing there, or being displaced forcefully have a right to normal and prosperous life.

I would like to concur with the recent statements of the European Union and emphasize that the Chairman-in-Office of the OSCE and ODIHR shall find ways to follow up on the report and report to the PC how the recommendations are being implemented. For this we can either use already existing tools and mechanisms, or devise new ones.

Let me wish you Ambassador Lenarcic and his dedicated staff all the best and success in their much needed activities.

Thank you very much.