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

Statement

By the Delegation of Georgia At the 981st Meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council in reaction to the recent Developments in Ukraine

Madam Chairperson,

Yesterday, on January 22. 2014 the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia issued the following statement:

The Georgian Foreign Ministry wishes to express its deep concern over the death and injury of citizens during the recent events in Ukraine, and conveys its condolences to the families of the victims. Georgia respects the right of each and every country to define its foreign policy priorities, but, at the same time, expects every country to comply with the principles of freedom of assembly and freedom of speech and expression.

The Georgian Foreign Ministry calls upon both the Ukrainian Government and the protesters to refrain from violence, and hopes that Ukraine-a country with which Georgia has traditionally entertained friendly relations, and with which Georgia successfully co-operates in both bilateral and multilateral formats, including within the European Union's "Eastern Partnership"-will be able to lower tensions through dialogue with due regard for the interests of both Ukraine and the Ukrainian people.

We sincerely wish to see Ukraine, along with Georgia, as part of one big "European family", and as a country which shares all of Europe's values.

Thank you Madam Chairperson.