



PERMANENT MISSION OF GEORGIA TO OSCE AND OTHER  
INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS IN VIENNA

PC.DEL/83/05  
3 February 2005

**Statement by George Gomiashvili,  
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ENGLISH only

**Permanent Council, February 3, 2005**

Mr. Chairman,

It is both a pleasure and an honor to be in the midst of you today and to have the opportunity to address this auspicious forum on behalf of my Government.

But at the outset, let me extend the warm words of appreciation to the OSCE and its Chairmanship for their tireless efforts aimed at bringing peace and stability to my country

Mr. Chairman,

4 people were killed and over 30 wounded when a car-bomb exploded in the central Georgian town of Gori 36 hrs ago. This terrorist act took place just 35 kilometers from the border.

Today I was supposed to address you and share our insight regarding the usefulness and necessity of the OSCE BMO mission to Georgia. After these events, I do not think I have to prove to anyone the vital importance of the borders in our region, and of necessity of controlling and monitoring over these borders. This attack once again reminded us of the core elements of the National Security for every single state – that is the full control of the entire territory and most importantly, the inviolability and protection of its frontiers.

Georgia has no habit of premature labeling or hasty naming of suspects, or unproven accusations however, but all the evidence is showing today that this act originated from the outside of Georgia. This underlines even more the issue of border control as one of vital importance for Georgia's stability and security, and that of the entire region.

For almost five years, OSCE officers have been monitoring the border between Georgia and the Russian Federation. Now it is over.

Mr. Chairman, Ambassadors, Ladies and Gentlemen – the OSCE BMO has been extremely important as it brought the needed constructive cooperation and transparency in this important stretch of the Russian-Georgian border. The termination of international presence at the Georgian-Russian border will have serious consequences for the stability and security of the entire Caucasus region.

Therefore, recalling the January 19 proposal supported by the United States, European Union, the GUUAM countries and Turkey-- we still think that the idea of sending an OSCE Assessment Team is a very valuable one, especially at this time, and might provide us with a very useful insight to determine between the different options that are in front of us. Thus the Georgian authorities would like to officially invite as a matter of urgency such a Team to be set up and sent on the spot.

In any case it must be clear for everyone that Georgia can not allow – and now, less than ever, - the border to be left without international presence.

As I have mentioned, we want to consider all the possible alternative options in order to fulfill the tasks previously covered by the BMO – that is the Monitoring and a possible new component, i.e. the training functions.

To start with, we would welcome the training mission of the OSCE for the border guards. It will ensure that the 5 year long experience is shared, not lost. This OSCE training mission would be a sure and productive means for continuation of the OSCE presence and constructive engagement in this area. Therefore, Georgia hereby officially requests such a training mission to take place and would welcome a decision launching this mission to be adopted as soon as possible.

The most important and vital part is monitoring, which in our view can be carried through two different ways:

Option # 1. If there is still a chance to save the BMO – that would be an adjusted operation – but this option seems more and more remote as days go by. Nevertheless, yesterday's tragic events may warrant a chance to reconsider the decision to terminate the

mission. Thus the Georgian authorities would like to ask the Chairman-in-Office to explore this possibility and make a formal proposal for a new revised mandate. That would be the best proof both that the OSCE can still be effective, and still matters when we are talking about security and stability and would give a chance to Russia to prove itself a responsible neighbor.

Option #2. Is to prepare ourselves for a replacement of the BMO monitoring and we have started to do so. We are looking for an ad hoc operation in which we will join our efforts and those of friendly countries that will be willing to contribute in order to maintain an objective international monitoring of our border. We will welcome any friendly country in this ad hoc mission and that includes Russia itself, if it were willing to take part, like it participated in the OSCE BMO. For this mission is not one of confrontation but security and cooperation, and is aimed at confidence building with our neighbor. For all these steps are for the purposes of smoothing relations and avoiding unnecessary complications with the Russian Federation. It should be also stressed that these alternative options in no way exclude the existing joint monitoring and exchange of information between the Georgian and Russian border guard services. We also consider that increased efforts should be made to accelerate and finish the process of border delimitation. This would constitute a positive signal and increased stability and confidence between our two countries.

This coalition of the Willing Countries might need to turn to the EU for financial assistance and/or expert support as a contribution to this endeavor. This, in our view, should pave the way for what we see as a long-term involvement of the EU in the questions of border-security in the framework of our Neighborhood Policy, but also as a part of the EU's dialogue with Russia.

Thus I would like once more to underline our vision of our border security. It is not an exclusive but an all-inclusive approach. We need at the same time the assessment team to go and report about the situation at the border, the training mission to prepare our border guards, the ad hoc monitoring mission with our friendly countries to provide for international presence, the existing joint monitoring and exchange of information between the Georgian and Russian border guard services, and the long-term involvement of the EU in border security and

management. All of these elements are essential parts of an overall security and stability package for Georgia and the entire Caucasus region.

Georgia faces many challenges on her way to full-fledged liberal democracy and functioning market economy. We should not have to waste time and precious, scarce resources on the task of the most basic preservation of our security and territorial integrity when we could be using that time and energy, and those scarce resources, on building our nation and consolidating our state.

We hope that the Permanent Council will not delay any longer the decisions that are called for in order to make that possible.

Before I close, Mr. Chairman, I would like to address the triple “R” agenda of the CiO, H.E. Mr. Ruppel, proposed at the first Permanent Council meeting this year – Revitalize, Reform and Rebalance. However, allow me to suggest another set of triple “R”s that my country and my people are awaiting from this high organization:

That is:

**Reach – out**  
**Reassure**  
**React.**

Thank you.