



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 941st session of the OSCE Permanent Council

Vienna, February 14, 2013

Mr. Chairperson,

From the outset, on behalf of the delegation of Georgia, let me reiterate that further strengthening of the EU-Georgia relations is our top foreign policy priority. We would like to thank the EU for its continuous interest and close attention towards Georgia.

As for the incident of February 8th, the Government of Georgia has denounced unconditionally and unequivocally the incident that took place in front of the National Library Building between the protesters and the members of the Parliament from the United National Movement Party and their supporters. Our position is that popular protest, as a right guaranteed by the constitution, must be expressed only in a non-violent manner and in compliance with the law.

After the intervention of the police, situation had been taken under control. The Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia undertook all necessary measures with a view to identifying and punishing the participants and instigators of the incident. As a result, Georgian Law enforcers have launched investigation and interrogated 10 individuals with the status of witness on the same day. Review of the actions by the police is also underway so that methods to prevent and address such situations may be improved.

As one of the issues for discussion, the incident has also been addressed through expressing shared concerns at a meeting between the Chair of the Parliament and the President of Georgia the next day.

As for the ongoing debate on constitutional issues, at the meeting the Chair of the Parliament and the President expressed their readiness to continue dialogue with an aim of finding solution on the whole range of important issues, including on the issue of constitutional amendment on the revocation of the president's right to appoint a new government without the parliament's consent. It was agreed that such consultations would continue.

Thank you.