

ENGLISH only



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 981<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council in reaction to the  
creation of the so-called border zone along the river Psou

Vienna, January 23, 2014

Madam Chairpeson,

On behalf of the Government of Georgia I would like to express our deep concern over the decision of the Russian Federation and its occupation regime in Abkhazia, providing for the illegal expansion of the so-called border zone 11 kilometers deeper into Georgia's territory along the river Psou from January 20 to March 21, 2014, in the run up to the Sochi Olympic Games.

Creation of the so-called border zone on Georgia's sovereign territory without the Georgian Government's consent once again violates Georgia's territorial integrity and sovereignty and represents a rough violation of international commitments, fundamental principles of international law and provisions of the 12 August 2008 ceasefire agreement by the Russian Federation.

The Russian Federation spares no effort to advance the so-called independent status of the Abkhazia region through various means, including the use of Sochi Olympic Games as a platform for its promotion, thus, politicizing the purely peaceful and non-political character of the Olympic Games. As an example, recently, the RF Department for Freight Transportation has granted 500 accreditations to the so called "Abkhazian" vehicles and provided them with the passes indicating the independent status of the Abkhazia region. Such actions are deliberately directed against Georgia's sovereignty and territorial integrity. .

The abovementioned illegal activities are of particular concern in light of the facts that the process of installation of wire fences and other artificial barriers continues along the occupation line of Abkhazia and the Tskhinvali regions of Georgia, freedom of movement of local population is restricted and military contingent is being increased.

Madam Chairperson,

I would also like to highlight that considering the security challenges of the Sochi Olympic Games Georgia proposed to cooperate with Russia on the security of the Olympics and has reiterated its readiness on numerous occasions and still remains with this attitude.

In conclusion, once again we call on the Russian Federation to stop politicizing the Olympic Games and fulfill its international obligations, above all, the commitments contained in the ceasefire agreement.

Thank you.