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**Chairmanship: Kazakhstan****SPECIAL MEETING OF THE PERMANENT COUNCIL  
(799th Plenary Meeting)**1. Date: Friday, 19 March 2010

Opened: 10.15 a.m.

Closed: 11.45 a.m.

2. Chairperson: Ambassador K. Abdrakhmanov3. Subjects discussed – Statements – Decisions/documents adopted:Agenda item 1: ADDRESS BY H.E. TEMURI YAKOBASHVILI,  
VICE-PRIME MINISTER AND STATE MINISTER FOR  
REINTEGRATION OF GEORGIA

Chairperson, H.E. Temuri Yakobashvili (PC.DEL/172/10),  
Spain-European Union (with the candidate countries Croatia, the former  
Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey; the countries of the  
Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate countries  
Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro; the European Free Trade  
Association countries Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the  
European Economic Area; as well as Azerbaijan, Moldova and Ukraine, in  
alignment), United States of America (PC.DEL/179/10), Canada (Annex 1),  
France (PC.DEL/181/10), Turkey, Russian Federation (Annex 2),  
United Kingdom

Agenda item 2: REVIEW OF CURRENT ISSUES

*Gathering of Latvian legionnaires in Riga on 16 March 2010:* Russian Federation  
(PC.DEL/184/10), Latvia (PC.DEL/182/10)

Agenda item 3: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

*Joint declaration on co-operation between the Collective Security Treaty Organization and the United Nations Organization, signed in Moscow on 18 March 2010: Russian Federation (PC.DEL/185/10), Chairperson*

4. Next meeting:

Thursday, 25 March 2010, at 10 a.m., in the Neuer Saal



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe  
Permanent Council**

PC.JOUR/799  
19 March 2010  
Annex 1

Original: ENGLISH

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**799th Plenary Meeting**

PC Journal No. 799, Agenda item 1

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF CANADA**

Mr. Chairperson,

Canada would like to join others in welcoming Vice Prime Minister and State Minister for Reintegration Mr. Yakobashvili to the Permanent Council; the senior most representative from the Government of Georgia that the Council has heard since the August 2008 war.

Canada's strong support for Georgia's sovereignty and territorial integrity within its internationally recognized borders remains steadfast. We urge all parties to the conflict to redouble efforts at finding a peaceful and lasting solution.

We also believe that the OSCE and its institutions – notably the ODIHR and HCNM – should be allowed to return to Georgia and continue the valuable conflict prevention and capacity-building work of our Organization, and in all war affected regions.

We are thankful for Vice Prime Minister Yakobashvili's presentation today on Georgia's ambitious strategy. We welcome this proactive initiative to engage the populations of Abkhazia and South Ossetia in important areas of both economic and social benefit.

We note that the strategy makes a number of crucial points, chief amongst them is the rejection of a military solution and we strongly applaud Georgia for rejecting this option.

We are convinced that Georgia's focus on cooperation and particularly on engagement is a constructive approach in terms of reaching out to the residents of Abkhazia and South Ossetia, and for finding a way forward.

We note the absence in the strategy of the de facto authorities of Abkhazia and South Ossetia and would recommend that Georgia engage with them, despite the difficulties inherent in doing so. After all, we must not forget that the de facto authorities are also part of the "target populations" of these regions cited in your strategy.

We would also encourage Georgia to include a reference to the Geneva Talks in the strategy, as these international talks are currently the only means of engagement between Georgia, the de facto authorities, and Russian officials.

A sustained and constructive engagement by Georgia and all parties in the Geneva Process is necessary in order to achieve real progress.

We take careful note of references in the strategy to the freedom to exercise religious rights and the value of religious diversity. We urge Georgia to formally recognize religious minority groups belonging to non-traditional religious communities and to promote full respect for the right to freedom of religion.

Concerning the unfortunate 13 March 2010 incident of the Imedi television's fictitious broadcast, this was not an example of responsible media behaviour, and was counter-productive to the goals of constructive engagement that Georgia's strategy aims to achieve.

We therefore join the OSCE's Freedom of the Media Representative, Ms. Dunja Mijatovic, in expressing concern over this incident. We welcome the swift condemnation by Georgia's National Communications Commission and urge that incidents such as this will be avoided in the future.

My Delegation has the following questions concerning the Georgian Vice Prime Minister's presentation:

Could Vice Prime Minister Yakobashvili tell us what the expected timelines are for the full implementation of the strategy and Government action plan?

What role does Georgia envisage for the OSCE in the implementation of the strategy? Would OSCE be part of the proposed Implementation Conference with stakeholders, for example?

We heard your reaffirmation that Georgia is supportive of the re-opening of the OSCE field mission closed last year. How best can an OSCE's presence be re-established in Georgia to support the status-neutral programs and projects that the strategy wants to achieve?

I would be most grateful, Mr. Chairperson, if this statement could be attached to the journal of the day. Thank you, merci, Rahmet!



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe  
Permanent Council**

PC.JOUR/799  
19 March 2010  
Annex 2

ENGLISH  
Original: RUSSIAN

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**799th Plenary Meeting**  
PC Journal No. 799, Agenda item 1

## **STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION**

Mr. Chairperson,

In response to the address by the Vice Prime Minister of Georgia, we should like to make a few comments on the new Georgian “State Strategy”. A reading of this document leaves no doubt that we are dealing with the latest propagandistic action by the current Georgian leadership, which is intended somehow to mitigate the destructive consequences of its policy in the region, especially after the tragic events of August 2008.

As it happens, this is not the first instance in which there has been a desire to actively engage the international community. We recall that in 2005, the Georgian Government presented the so-called “peace plan on the political status of South Ossetia”, trying, as it is doing now, to enlist the support of various international organizations. True, the presentations were made at a higher level: in the OSCE, by the then Prime Minister, Zurab Nogaideli, and in the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly and the United Nations General Assembly, by Mr. Mikheil Saakashvili himself.

All of us in the OSCE recall very well how similar efforts by Georgia to “make peace” with its closest neighbours ended. Three years after the document in question was issued, Georgian troops carried out a treacherous attack on South Ossetia, unleashing a bloody massacre of the South Ossetian people.

In this connection, a number of logical questions arise. After all that has happened, can one believe the Georgian authorities’ “peaceful” declarations? Is the current “strategy” not another ploy, masking Georgia’s true intentions, namely, returning Abkhazia and South Ossetia to the borders of the Georgian State by force? Will its implementation not lead, as has already happened more than once in the past, to new military and political catastrophes in the South Caucasus, which, incidentally, have entailed for Georgia itself the loss of a portion of its territory?

As it did in 2005, with the “peace plan”, and as it is doing now, with the “new strategy”, the Georgian leadership is continuing to make the same mistakes by stubbornly ignoring the views of the Abkhaz and South Ossetian peoples and their legitimate interests. It is not surprising that the document contains not one word about its content from the

standpoint of the main actors, whose vitally important needs the “strategy” is in theory designed to satisfy. What, strictly speaking, do the Abkhaz and South Ossetian peoples themselves think about the “strategy”? Do they agree to live in an “administrative zone” under the name of the “Tskhinvali region”? In the context of a discussion of the new Georgian initiative, it would be extremely useful and timely to invite representatives of Tskhinval and Sukhum to the OSCE and to listen to them.

We should like to highlight just one provision of the “strategy”, which shows, in a highly revealing manner, that the policy of the ruling regime in Tbilisi long ago lost all sense of proportion. Judge for yourselves. Does the passage at the very beginning of the document, on the declared intentions of the “strategy”, not sound like the height of hypocrisy? I quote from the text: “to ensure that residents of Abkhazia and the Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia enjoy the rights and privileges available to every citizen of Georgia”?

We shall not go over today how the Georgian Government ensures – not in words, but in deeds – the rights of ordinary Georgians and representatives of other nationalities residing in the country. That is not what we are dealing with right now. We draw attention to a fact of no small consequence, which speaks for itself. You will agree that there is a sharp contrast between the formulations in the “strategy” regarding the pseudo-concerns for the well-being of the Abkhaz and South Ossetian peoples and those which Mr. Saakashvili actually demonstrated in August 2008, by giving the order for the barbaric bombardment of the peaceful inhabitants of sleeping Tskhinval and surrounding villages using “Grad” multiple rocket launchers, heavy artillery and tanks – something that, by the way, was plainly verified in the report of the European Union special mission (IFFMCG) headed by Ambassador Heidi Tagliavini.

It turns out that first the President of Georgia annihilated part of his own people as a result of the armed aggression, literally wiping from the face of the earth several settlements where South Ossetians lived, and then he began to think about the “rights and privileges” of those persons in South Ossetia who survived, those whom he did not succeed in physically eliminating in the course of the most recent military campaign.

And now, as if nothing had happened, he is proposing some kind of “strategy”, which, as Tbilisi sees it, should restore confidence and respect on the part of the Abkhaz and South Ossetian peoples. There is a massive campaign under way in multilateral structures to promote such a document rather than the Georgian leaders openly asking the elderly, women and children who survived for their forgiveness for everything that happened.

We believe it important to reiterate the fundamental position of Russia, which is well known to the OSCE community and which the population of South Ossetia and Abkhazia and the leadership of these two now sovereign and independent States fully share. The decision by the Russian Federation to recognize the Republic of Abkhazia and the Republic of South Ossetia is final, irrevocable and irreversible. This is the only way to guarantee the survival of the Abkhaz and South Ossetian peoples in view of the never-ending attempts by the current Georgian authorities to physically destroy these people, and it is the only way to preserve their national identity and the right to live peacefully in the historic lands of their ancestors. Our recognition of these two republics and all-round assistance to them constitute a practical contribution to ensuring reliable stability and security in the South Caucasus.

Russia intends to continue to strengthen inter-State relations with Abkhazia and South Ossetia in all spheres in the interests of peace and prosperity in the Trans-Caucasus. And no “strategies” will be able to hinder the ongoing development of Russo-Abkhaz and Russo-South Ossetian co-operation.

Restoration of the confidence in the Georgian authorities that was lost during the years of Tbilisi’s confrontation with Tskhinval and Sukhum needs to begin not with “strategies” and “plans”, but with learning the lessons from past mistakes and the recognition of the new politico-legal realities in the region. The sooner this happens, the quicker stability and an atmosphere of genuine co-operation will be restored in the South Caucasus. It is important that this work is carried out through direct dialogue between Georgia and the Abkhaz and South Ossetian parties. As you are aware, a suitable format for this kind of discussion has been created in the form of the Geneva talks, and also in the mechanisms operating under their aegis to prevent incidents from occurring along the Georgian-Abkhaz and Georgian-South Ossetian borders, in which official representatives of the Republic of Abkhazia and the Republic of South Ossetia participate on an equal basis.

Mr. Vice Prime Minister,

If your “strategy” had appeared at least three years earlier, some kind of practical benefit could have been expected from it. Back then there was still a chance of preserving the territorial integrity of Georgia. Today, however, in view of the current realities – the appearance of two independent and sovereign States – Georgia’s response is clearly too late. The situation has changed dramatically, and it is difficult to imagine after the events of August 2008 the people of South Ossetia and Abkhazia deciding to return voluntarily to being part of Georgia.

We shall repeat once more – the present-day realities in the region are completely different and this needs to be taken into consideration. We must look to the future and not to the past.

I request that this statement be attached to the journal of today’s special meeting of the Permanent Council.

Thank you for your attention.