



PERMANENT DELEGATION OF NORWAY TO THE OSCE

STATEMENT ON THE DRAFT "TREATY ON ALLIANCE AND INTEGRATION" BETWEEN RUSSIA AND GEORGIAN BREAKAWAY REGION OF ABKHAZIA

As delivered by Ambassador Robert Kvile
to the Permanent Council 30 October 2014

Mr Chairman,

Norway firmly supports Georgia's sovereignty and territorial integrity. We therefore share Georgia's concern over the Russian proposal to conclude a treaty on "alliance and integration" with the Georgian breakaway region of Abkhazia. We agree that this proposed treaty can be interpreted as a step towards integrating Abkhazia into the Russian Federation.

As previous speakers, we are deeply concerned by Russia's security and military presence in the breakaway regions of Georgia. We again call on Russia to fulfil its commitments of 12 August 2008 and the subsequent implementing measures, commitments that Russia still has not met.

Concluding the proposed treaty on "alliance and integration" would be in clear violation of Georgia's sovereignty and territorial integrity and would only contribute to prolonging the conflict.

Mr Chairman,

I take this opportunity to reiterate our view that there is an urgent need for a meaningful OSCE presence throughout Georgia, including the breakaway regions. Reestablishing a field presence in the region would be an important element of our work on this protracted conflict, as there is a dire need for unbiased information about the situation on the ground in both Abkhazia and South Ossetia.

Thank you, Mr Chairman.