



EMBASSY OF GEORGIA TO THE REPUBLICS OF AUSTRIA AND HUNGARY  
PERMANENT MISSION OF GEORGIA TO THE OSCE AND OTHER  
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN VIENNA

**Statement by Georgian Delegation**

*(as delivered by Ambassador Victor DOLIDZE at 637<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Permanent Council)  
Vienna, 16 November 2006*

Thank you Mr. Chairman,

Frankly speaking, after the common understanding with the Russian side on the necessity of abandoning aggressive rhetoric and taking up a more moderate tone, I did not expect such sharp comments from the Russian side.

Rather than showing an adequate reaction to the conduction of the so-called elections and the referendum and thus joining its voice to the international community's assessments, the Russian side displays its admiration for another in a series of the Tskhinvali regime's adventures and describes it as 'free expression of the people's will through democratic procedures'.

Mr. Chairman,

Ridiculous is an attempt to dress up the Tskhinvali farces as a perfect example of democracy and convince the US and European states of it, not to speak of the political correctness of such 'compliment'. The expression of admiration for the democratic level of the 'elections' engineered by the separatist regime raises big question marks over Moscow's own understanding of democracy.

The comments made by the Russian side seem to be totally controversial to the actual state of affairs in the region and the general feeling of a majority of the region's population, who are bored with war and confrontation, want to live peacefully and are in favour of negotiations, which the Russian side, as an impartial mediator, should, by all logic, be promoting.

As for the group of 'independent observers', it included no figure or organization of more or less serious reputation and was represented solely by odious personalities, who made their way into the Tskhinvali region through a gross violation of the Georgian laws. Observers, if reputable, are generally engaged in monitoring the observance of laws, instead of violating them. Such acts of the 'observers' provide another proof of their partiality, which is a well-established fact.

The comment of the Russian side is another undisguised confirmation of support for the separatist government, which aims at legitimizing separatism and undermining the territorial integrity of Georgia. With such statements the Russian side shows an open defiance for the universally recognized norms of international law, including the UN Resolution 1716 of October 13, 2006, which reaffirms unequivocally that all member states of the UN Security Council support the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Georgia within its internationally recognized borders.

Mr. Chairman,

As a conclusion it should be noted that the peace process in the conflict zone is gaining a momentum and we are confident that the implementation of the Peace Plan approved by the international community will result in enhanced mutual confidence in the region and a greater level of popular support for peace and negotiations that will eventually lead the peace process to a successful outcome. The Russian Federation still has a chance to take up a rightful role in this process.

Thank you.