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

**Statement in Response to the EU statement on the shooting incident
in Georgia on 18 May**

As delivered by the Permanent Representative of Georgia to the OSCE,
Ambassador Paata Gaprindashvili

at the 863rd session of the OSCE Permanent Council

Vienna, May 26, 2011

Mr. Chairman,

Let me thank the European Union for its reaction to the 18 May incident, on which we also were able to concentrate at a previous occasion. It was yet another criminal act of the occupying forces aimed at threatening the local population and increasing tension in the vicinity of the occupied regions of Georgia. Two citizens were severely wounded. Fourteen Georgian citizens still remain illegally detained in Tskhinvali. Six of them were detained yesterday.

Unfortunately, such provocative incidents continue to be part of Russia's broad destabilizing policy towards Georgia, which also includes series of terrorist acts planned in the occupied territories. Since the August 2008 Russia-Georgia war and the subsequent military occupation of the Georgian provinces of Abkhazia and the Tskhinvali Region/South Ossetia, the Russian government, in addition to intensifying its military build-up on these territories, has resumed sponsoring subversive activities in the rest of Georgia. Since 2009, Russia's two intelligence services – the Main Intelligence Division of the

Ministry of Defense (GRU) and the Federal Security Service (FSB) – have planned, coordinated, and carried out numerous acts of terrorism and sabotage in the capital Tbilisi, as well as in other regions of Georgia, which led to death of one civilian and one police officer. Russia’s intelligence services have used the occupied territories as safe haven for preparing these attacks. This is verified by strong evidence, which includes videotaped testimonies of suspects detained by the Georgian police, as well as multiple intercepted telephone communications (SIGINT).

Dear Colleagues,

Yesterday my delegation has brought specific material to your attention, which illustrates in details subversive activities, acts of terrorism and sabotage organized by the Russian special services in Georgia in 2009-2011.

In addition to that, I would like to inform you that my authorities, on a number of occasions, have expressed their readiness to cooperate closely with relevant Russian agencies in the process of investigation. For this purpose, the Government of Georgia communicated all materials to Russia through Switzerland, which acts as an intermediary between two countries, as well as, at the Geneva Discussions and the meetings of the Incident Prevention and Reaction Mechanisms (IPRMs). However, there has been no reaction from Russia.

Mr. Chairman, Dear Colleagues,

Bringing this particular issue to your attention doesn’t serve the purpose to expose or name and shame. As you may understand from what I have said above, up until now, we have kept this dangerous chain of events below radars and tried to address the issue through dialogue and cooperation. Unfortunately, our call for dialogue and cooperation has not yielded any meaningful results. Therefore, by bringing this particular issue to your attention today, we try to ring an alarm bell and minimize a danger ahead of us through active international involvement. According to the intelligence available to the Government of Georgia, Russia’s intelligence services are still planning to carry out terrorist attacks against Georgia.

Thank You.