

PC.DEL/557/11  
10 June 2011

ENGLISH  
Original: RUSSIAN

Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY MR. ANVAR AZIMOV,  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,  
AT THE MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

10 June 2011

**On the sixteenth round of the Geneva discussions on the Trans-Caucasus**

Mr. Chairperson,

At the 16th round of the Geneva discussions on security and stability in the Trans-Caucasus that was held on 7 June of this year there was a clear demonstration of the increasing aggressiveness of the Georgian delegation. That delegation attempted to place the blame on Russian machinations for all the failures of the Georgian leadership in domestic and international affairs. The Georgian side levelled unfounded accusations against the Russian intelligence services for supposedly organizing some sort of “terrorist acts” on the territory of Georgia. It is symptomatic that the latest arrest of a “saboteur” near the NATO liaison office in Tbilisi on 6 June of this year took place on the very eve of the holding of the multilateral meeting in Geneva.

However, the facts of the last few months (the penetration into Abkhazia of special forces from the Georgian Ministry of Internal Affairs, the death in April of this year of a Russian border officer, the incidents in South Ossetia) clearly demonstrate who in fact is undermining the stabilization that had begun to appear in the Trans-Caucasus.

What we are witnessing is a stepping up in the activities of the Georgian special services near the borders. Since the beginning of this year alone, 12 incursions by Georgian sabotage groups into the territory of the Republic of Abkhazia, mainly in the Gali region, have been recorded. These actions are organically linked to the anti-Russian “spy mania” campaign in Georgia and with the attempt to find “a Russian connection” in the actions of the domestic Georgian opposition.

Against this background, during the discussions the Russian delegation emphasized the need for more careful monitoring by European Union observers of the actions of the Georgian agencies authorized to use force in the regions bordering Abkhazia and South Ossetia. It was once again noted that the mandate of the European Union Monitoring Mission in Georgia does not extend to the regions adjacent to the new independent States.

As regards the question of the transition to practical steps in the area of confidence-building measures, transparency and the exchange of information, our position

remains unchanged. What is necessary is the signing between Tskhinval and Tbilisi and between Sukhum and Tbilisi of legally binding agreements regarding the non-use of force or the threat of force. Unfortunately, it is impossible to talk of any progress along these lines.

The stubborn unwillingness of officials in Tbilisi to see in the representatives of Abkhazia and South Ossetia negotiation partners with equal rights is leading to a spinning of wheels in the effort to solve the entire range of problems connected with the return of refugees and displaced persons. In connection with the fact that Georgia has again put forward a draft resolution along these lines in the General Assembly of the United Nations, it is clear that without the participation of delegations from Abkhazia and South Ossetia the discussions at the General Assembly may become a political farce.

The results of this round confirm that the Georgian side, unfortunately, is failing to put forward any constructive proposals on establishing links with Abkhazia and South Ossetia and is increasingly resorting to propagandist rhetoric.

Thank you for your attention.