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**PERMANENT MISSION
OF TURKEY TO THE OSCE**

**SPEAKING NOTES OF
AMBASSADOR BULUÇ ON GEORGIA
(726th SPECIAL PC, 14 August 2008)**

We welcome Special Envoy Ambassador Talvitie to the Permanent Council.

His activities and visit in the region are key part of Chairman-in-Office's latest efforts which Minister Stubb conducts with great political responsibility and conscientiousness.

Turkey, a neighbor of Georgia, is sharing a common border and long standing relations of partnership. Except for sharing of a land border, our relations with the Russian Federation are equally deep and intense. These attributes bestow on Turkey certain responsibilities and a role to play especially under the present circumstances. Turkey today, as in the past, is ready fully to play the role that geography and geostrategy almost impose on it. This is a role we play nationally as well as with others where such joint initiatives are complementary and mutually reinforcing.

In a different setting on Monday the 11th, I informed colleagues on how the Turkish political leadership was reacting to developments across our border. While we monitored developments with concern, in tandem, we sought to identify the type and nature of contributions we could make to prevent further deterioration and to bring clashes to an end, address the humanitarian consequences and loss and suffering of victims. This was done mainly through a series of communications with the leaders of the Russian Federation and of Georgia.

In a subsequent stage, unfolding new conditions have led us to upgrade our efforts through visits to the two capitals. The Turkish Prime Minister accompanied by the Foreign Minister had extensive talks with President, Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of the Russian Federation yesterday evening in Moscow. The same delegation is undertaking in Tbilisi discussions with the Georgian leadership.

While, at this time, I do not have a read-out on the outcomes, the fundamental goal pursued by the Prime Minister and his team through their high level talks is to explore and contribute to the creation of grounds to stabilize the situation and through a consolidated ceasefire regime, restore peace and cooperation for the common good of the Caucasus. These contacts and efforts will continue; addressing humanitarian needs will remain a priority and dispatch of humanitarian aid is underway.

We took note of the EU Presidency's joint statement. In this context, I would like to share with you that the President of Turkey, in a press conference earlier this week, expressed our strong support for international efforts including those of the EU. He underscored the vital importance of showing respect and commitment to safeguarding Georgia's territorial integrity and sovereignty, as we do.