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

**S T A T E M E N T**

*Delivered by Ambassador Victor Dolidze at the 679<sup>th</sup> Permanent Council  
Vienna, 6 September, 2007*

Mr. Chairman,

First of all, let me express our gratitude to the OSCE Spanish Chairmanship and the Chairman-in-Office Minister Moratinos for the readiness and leadership he has exercised in responding to the incident of missile attack of 6 August 2007 in Georgia.

H.E. Minister Moratinos just ended his trip to Moscow and Georgia. This important tour has shown clearly to all of us that incidents like this are not left any more to the countries for their bilateral considerations and endless disputes. International focus this particular incident has gained is a demonstration that incidents like this undermine fundamental principles the OSCE is based on and, if not properly addressed they have a grave potential to endanger the international peace and security.

For nearly everybody, it was a welcome decision of the OSCE CiO to appoint his Personal Representative in a mission to Georgia and consultations in Russia on the missile attack of 6 August 2007. I would like to take this opportunity and thank H.E. Dr. Miomir Žužul for his dedicated efforts in addressing this extremely important issue and being with us here today.

The 6 August missile attack on the Georgian soil was thoroughly investigated by two Independent International Expert Groups from the OSCE Participating States and their conclusions were clear and unequivocal.

Violation of the Georgian airspace took place from the Russian airspace and the Russian aircrafts were involved in the missile attack. We share the position of the International Community that we should not search any more for the answer what happened – All experts, except the ones from the Russian Federation confirmed that Georgian airspace was violated from the Russian Federation. What is needed is to put fundamental question - why it happened, what was the objective of the missile attack onto the Georgian territory.

To have a clearer idea, we need to take into account that the 6 August missile attack is a continuation of the chain of events which we have observed since at least last summer.

The latest Russian bombing raids – the one on 6 August, another in March 2007 and October 2006 in Upper Abkhazia as well as other violations of Georgian airspace – were in close proximity to the conflict zones.

Apparently one of the aims is to drag Georgia into military confrontation and to derail the country from its development path as well as to test how far the international community is able and ready to step in defending peace and stability.

We need to consider seriously that the Russian side nowadays seem increasingly unhappy with clear positive developments in the conflict resolution process in the Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia, Georgia. Certain circles tend to seek military scenarios, since they can not keep up with new developments, which provide the “WIN-WIN” conditions for all stakeholders.

Along with other cases of airspace violations, this recent incident reveals elements of deliberate military planning and leads us to the worrisome conclusion that a well-planned military activities in this region might be under elaboration.

Today the entire international community commends Georgia’s patient and responsible reaction to this incident, and as a part of the OSCE we are determined to stick to this principle and remain open to constructive dialogue.

At the same time we all in the Organization need to show even greater perseverance in addressing priority issues throughout the whole OSCE area, such as maintaining peace and preventing possible destabilisation. Moreover, patience is not to be understood as inactivity in avoiding difficult issues, inasmuch as perseverance does not imply taking unjustified risks.

We believe that strict and resolute response from the international community can play a deterrent role and help to prevent such attacks from happening in the future. Otherwise they will continue to occur and not only in Georgia.

Therefore, it is Georgia’s firm position that the priority within the OSCE should be given to preventive diplomacy - we do not want to see similar attacks neither in Georgia nor elsewhere.

What can be done is to continue cementing the united stand by the International Community to say this is intolerable and unacceptable. That is one of the ways discouraging master minds of such unprovoked attacks from repeated attempts in the future.

I would like to mention at least two profound grounds for this position:

Firstly, this attack is a matter of concern for not only Georgia's, but of the whole European security, especially with regard to the possibility of airspace violations of the sovereign countries.

Secondly, the implementation of a military scenario would inevitably endanger not only Georgia but the whole region, including the Russian Federation itself.

As one of the elements of a long term solution to this problem, we believe, would be the effective mechanism for quick investigation of similar incidents to establish within the OSCE to allow the organisation to timely assess the situation and respond appropriately. This is our common mission which we believe could be accomplished well ahead the Ministerial.

We want to put it quite clear, Georgia does not endeavour cornering any country and we do not expect the OSCE to do so neither. Our goal is to prevent such attacks from occurring in the future throughout the entire OSCE area.

And we want to see the Russian side as a part of the solution of outstanding issues and not otherwise. I would like to use this opportunity and call upon the Russian side to support finally a proposal to increase number of OSCE Military Monitoring Officers in the Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia, Georgia. It could be done, you all would agree, without any further delay – what is needed, is just a simple answer – Yes to the more monitors and No to the conditions which create unjustifiable obstacles for their deployment.

Thank you.