



**34th (SPECIAL) JOINT MEETING OF THE
FORUM FOR SECURITY CO-OPERATION
AND THE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

1. Date: Wednesday, 11 June 2008

Opened: 10.05 a.m.

Closed: 10.30 a.m.

2. Chairperson: Ms. T. Parts (FSC) (Estonia)
Mr. A. Turunen (PC) (Finland)

3. Subjects discussed — Statements — Decisions/documents adopted:

Agenda item 1: OPENING REMARKS BY THE CO-CHAIRPERSONS

None

Agenda item 2: INTRODUCTION BY THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION OF
ITS REQUEST OF 9 JUNE 2008 (FSC-PC.DEL/27/08) FOR
A JOINT FSC-PC MEETING, IN ACCORDANCE WITH
PARAGRAPH 16.3 AND 16.3.1.1, CHAPTER III OF THE
VIENNA DOCUMENT 1999, AND WITH REFERENCE TO
ITS NOTE VERBALE No. 25, DATED 30 MAY 2008

Russian Federation (Annex 1)

Agenda item 3: COMMENTS BY GEORGIA

Georgia (Annex 2)

Agenda item 4: GENERAL STATEMENTS

Slovenia-European Union (with the candidate countries Croatia, the former
Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey; the countries of the
Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate countries

Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Montenegro; the European Free Trade Association country Liechtenstein, member of the European Economic Area; as well as Ukraine, in alignment) (FSC-PC.DEL/29/08), Russian Federation, Chairperson of the PC

Agenda item 5: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None

4. Next meeting:

Wednesday, 11 June 2008, following the 34th Joint FSC-PC Meeting



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
Forum for Security Co-operation
Permanent Council**

FSC-PC.JOUR/21

11 June 2008

Annex 1

ENGLISH

Original: RUSSIAN

34th Joint Meeting of the FSC and the PC
FSC-PC Journal No. 21, Agenda item 2

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION**

Distinguished colleagues,

We requested the holding of this meeting in view of the fact that the Georgian response to our note verbale of 30 May 2008 has proved to be totally unsatisfactory and has in no way removed our concerns. It has therefore been necessary to employ first the second and now the third stage of the procedures provided for by the mechanism for consultation and co-operation under Chapter III of the Vienna Document.

I might recall that the Russian request asked for clarifications with regard to the numerous instances of violations of the 1994 Moscow Agreement on a Ceasefire and Separation of Forces. We included in our note verbale specific cases of violations and urged our Georgian partners to desist from them immediately. The Russian delegation distributed detailed information within the OSCE attesting to the extremely unsatisfactory implementation by Georgia of its commitments.

Unfortunately, in its note verbale in reply the Georgian side either repudiated the violations or declared that its actions were in fact not violations. These assertions for the most part bear no relation to the real state of affairs. Let us give a few examples.

The Georgian side, for example, claims that during the 14 years since the signing of the Moscow Agreement its air force has not conducted a single unauthorized flight in the security zone. In actual fact, this is not the case. In 2007 alone the Collective Peacekeeping Forces (CPKF) recorded 158 such violations. Delegations can consult this detailed list on the OSCE website. I might add that these violations have in many cases also been confirmed by the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia (UNOMIG). In particular, the report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations of 3 October 2007 (document S/2007/588) states that during a period of three months from 18 July to 15 October 2007, 29 overflights by Georgian aircraft through the security zone in the direction of the upper Kodori Valley were observed. The United Nations mission received notification of only ten of these flights. In other words, violations occurred in 19 cases. And this was in a period of just three months.

Let us look at the previous report by the United Nations Secretary-General, namely document S/2007/439 of 18 July 2007. It provides an even more depressing picture: overflights by 25 aircraft and 6 helicopters of the Georgian Ministry of Internal Affairs without prior notification and 12 helicopters flights with prior notification — again in a period of just three months. In the light of this, how are we to understand the claim in the Georgian note verbale to the effect that since 1994 it has not committed a single violation?

Furthermore, the Georgian side claims in its note verbale that the number of representatives of its law enforcement and security forces in the upper Kodori Valley does not exceed 600 persons and that the Georgian side has never increased this number. In actual fact, however, on 25 July 2006, without prior agreement and ignoring the peacekeepers' demands, a convoy of Georgian servicemen (around 500 persons) consisting of 30 Kamaz vehicles, 18 Niva vehicles and 4 UAZ vehicles crossed into the Kodori Valley. The personnel of the CPKF observation post were surrounded by Georgian servicemen and prevented from carrying out their duties. When an attempt was made to prevent the convoy from moving, the Georgian servicemen threatened to use their weapons.

New cases of reinforcement of the Georgian armed presence in this district have subsequently been noted. For example, in his first report following the Georgian special operation in the Kodori Valley, the United Nations Secretary-General informed the Security Council that UNOMIG had been obliged to issue 13 reports of violation of the Moscow Agreement to the Georgian side relating to the introduction of troops, military equipment and aircraft into the security zone and obstruction of the free movement of UNOMIG personnel (see document S/2006/771). Active movement of armed personnel and equipment in the vicinity of the Kodori Valley has also been noted in the subsequent period right up to the recent past. We have distributed information within the OSCE about specific cases in this regard.

The numerical strength of subunits of the Georgian law enforcement and security forces in the upper Kodori Valley is currently at around 2,700 persons, up to 1,000 persons from the Ministry of Internal Affairs and up to 1,700 persons from the Ministry of Defence.

The aforementioned actions by the Georgian side have been extremely detrimental to the prospects for a Georgian-Abkhaz settlement. The Abkhaz side has refused to participate in any negotiations until there is an end to these flagrant violations of the Moscow Agreement. The United Nations Security Council has also been obliged to deal with this matter. In resolution 1716 of 13 October 2006, the Council expressed its concern with regard to the actions of the Georgian side in the Kodori Valley and to all the violations of the Moscow Agreement of 1994, and other Georgian-Abkhaz agreements concerning the Kodori Valley. It urged the Georgian side to ensure that the situation in the upper Kodori Valley is in line with the Moscow Agreement and that no troops unauthorized by this agreement are present. It also urged the Georgian side to seriously address legitimate Abkhaz security concerns, to avoid steps that could be seen as threatening and to refrain from militant rhetoric and provocative actions, especially in the upper Kodori Valley. Unfortunately, the Georgian side frequently ignores these appeals, not only when it comes to rhetoric but also to provocative actions, as can be seen, in particular, from the incidents with unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs).

Significant violations have also been noted in the Zugdidi district. According to the Protocol of the Gali meeting of 3 May 2000 on the stabilization of the situation in the security zone, the numerical strength of the law enforcement and security forces there should not exceed 600 persons. The Abkhaz side is complying fully with its commitments in the Gali district, as has been confirmed on several occasions by the United Nations mission. The Georgian side, on the other hand, has exceeded the established limit almost twice over. We have also posted detailed information in this regard on the OSCE website.

The massive violation by the Georgian side of the Moscow Agreement with respect to the obligation to ensure the freedom of movement of peacekeepers warrants special discussion. For example, since September 2007 there have been no joint patrols by servicemen of the Collective Peacekeeping Forces of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and UNOMIG personnel in the upper Kodori Valley because of the refusal of the Georgian side to allow Russian peacekeepers to enter this territory. This is a direct violation of paragraph 4 of the Moscow Agreement and of the Protocol of 29 March 2002.

Furthermore, owing to obstacles placed by the Georgian law enforcement and security forces, since 28 August 2007 it has been necessary to suspend CPKF patrols in the restricted weapons zone.

The peacekeepers regularly encounter open provocation. We have posted more detailed information in this regard on the OSCE website.

In this context, we should not fail to mention the destructive role of propaganda efforts by the Georgian side to discredit the peacekeepers and exacerbate the tension. Countless examples in this regard are listed in the reports of the United Nations Secretary-General. This ill-intentioned campaign reached such a level that in his penultimate report (document S/2008/38 of 28 January 2008) the Secretary-General was obliged to make the following extremely hard-hitting assessment: "... a widespread sense of uncertainty and alarm was fuelled throughout the period by an almost daily flow of inaccurate reports originating in the Georgian media and, occasionally, by the Georgian authorities themselves. Each individual allegation may have had little impact, but cumulatively they have contributed to growing distrust and insecurity, ultimately increasing the chances of confrontation".

Unfortunately, the list of counterproductive actions by the Georgian side could be continued almost indefinitely. I shall limit myself to only one of the most recent examples. On 12 May 2008, at a time when the situation in the zone of conflict was already considerably heated, specifically because of the incidents involving unmanned aerial vehicles, a detachment of Georgian military vessels entered the coastal waters of Abkhazia. We do not want to get into an argument as to whether this was permitted under the current agreements. What is more important is that in such a tense situation these actions were akin to pouring oil on fire. What did the Georgian side gain from this? And is it not as a result of similar actions undermining the very possibility of a germ of confidence emerging, that the Georgian-Abkhaz conflict is frequently referred to as "frozen"?

Distinguished colleagues,

We decided to draw attention to all these issues primarily for two reasons. First, so as to help the OSCE participating States gain a more complete and objective view of the state of affairs in the zone of conflict. Second, and this is the main point, so as to urge the Georgian side from the platform of the OSCE to critically review its actions and take steps to rectify the situation. Naturally, everything does not depend just on Tbilisi. The Abkhaz side also permits violations. But the fact is that Georgia has greater opportunities, provided that the necessary political will is present, to bring the situation onto a more favourable track. To do this, it is at the very least necessary to ensure a few important preconditions. First, massive violations must cease. Second, the situation in the upper Kodori Valley must return to the status prior to 25 July 2006. Third, a document should be signed without delay with the Abkhaz side on the non-use of violence and security guarantees, as provided for in paragraph 7 of United Nations Security Council resolution 1808. This would open the way for a resumption of negotiations on the settlement of the conflict.

We hope that our Georgian friends will heed these urgent recommendations.

I request that this statement be attached to the journal of the meeting.



34th Joint Meeting of the FSC and the PC

FSC-PC Journal No. 21, Agenda item 3

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF GEORGIA

Madam Chairperson,
Mr. Chairperson,

Allow me to thank you for convening this joint FSC/PC meeting.

As you all can remember, the Georgian delegation responded in a spirit of co-operation and constructiveness to the so-called concerns raised in two verbal notes by the Russian Federation. Georgia was also actively involved in the bilateral consultations convened by the Russian Federation, and articulated its position clearly and constructively. You all received our verbal notes regarding this issue.

Unlike the Russian Federation, which absolutely ignored our serious concern regarding the 20 April incident, we still participated in the dialogue with the Russian Federation over their supposed concerns. Despite its allegations being completely untrue, irrelevant and out of context, we still engaged with the Russian Federation in a constructive spirit and tried to conduct genuine dialogue.

Now, let me ask the distinguished delegations present here the following question. What is the real intention of the Russian Federation in convening this forum?

Allow me to put the answer in a simple way. If Georgia had been able to answer this question on behalf of the OSCE community, it would have answered that the Russian side is trying to mislead the international community. And let me make it very clear that the Russian side has failed. Why?

Because the real motivation behind the Russian decision to activate the Vienna mechanism in response to Georgia's legitimate security concerns is quite simple: to overwhelm the OSCE participating States by activating OSCE mechanisms without due reasons, with the sole aim of diverting the attention of the present delegations from an extremely serious incident that took place on 20 April. In fact, the main issues that should be discussed here are Russian attempts to openly annex the territory of Georgia and the acts of aggression that have taken place throughout the years, of which the incidents of 6 August 2007 and 20 April 2008 are just two examples.

Distinguished colleagues, I would like to conclude by calling upon the Russian Federation to stop being negligent, to stop turning this extremely important issue into a comedy club, and to stop juggling with the OSCE instruments. Abkhazia is an integral part of Georgia, and your actions create serious security concerns for us. We all clearly see that you are now trying to impose wrong perceptions on us. We do not appreciate you playing with such important issues and once again urge you to engage in constructive dialogue.

Thank you.