



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

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

of the Permanent Representative of Georgia to the OSCE  
Mr. Paata Gaprindashvili

**In response to the address by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of  
Spain, H. E. Mr. Miguel Angel Moratinos**

*Delivered at the 790<sup>th</sup> (special) Meeting of the Permanent Council*

*Vienna 19 January, 2010*

Mr. Chairman,

I am honoured to join other delegations in welcoming Foreign Minister Miguel Angel Moratinos back to the Permanent Council and thank him for his insightful presentation of the EU priorities in this challenging year.

Having subscribed to the GUAM statement, allow me to add few words in my national capacity as well.

EU continues to play a vital role in Georgia in the aftermath of the Russian Aggression carried out in August 2008. We deem it of utmost importance to continue EU's engagement in Georgia in terms of conflict prevention and crisis management. This refers both to the on the ground presence, as well as international mediation.

The role of the EU in international negotiations between Russia and Georgia, in the format of Geneva Discussions, can be hardly underestimated. We commend the efforts of the EU Special Representative of the EU, Ambassador Pierre Morel to maintain the format and continue discussions in a result-oriented manner. While we see the establishment of the Incident Prevention and Response Mechanisms as a positive step towards the right direction, we regret that no other substantial decision has been reached within the Geneva Talks so far. We reserve a hope that during 2010 we will manage to reach a substantive agreement on effective international security arrangements on the ground, which will create conducive environment for the safe and dignified return of the internally displaced persons and refugees.

I would also like to stress the crucial role that the EU monitoring mission carries out on the territory of Georgia. This, now the only remaining international mission in Georgia, constitutes a major deterrent for further escalation of tensions in and across the occupied territories of Georgia. We stress that it is extremely important that the EUMM is allowed to exercise its full mandate on the whole territory of Georgia. We hope that Spanish Presidency of the EU will spare no efforts to achieve this goal.

Mr. Minister,

Let me underline the importance of the EU engagement in a variety of confidence-building measures with regard to the occupied regions of Georgia. We look forward to the strategy of the EU in that respect. Georgia is working on its own strategy of engagement towards the population living in Abkhazia, Georgia and Tskhinvali Region/Georgia, and we hope that our joint efforts will bear fruits in reaching out to the population on the other side of the occupation line.

In concluding let me wish to Minister Moratinos every success in his challenging tasks.

Thank You.