



**PERMANENT DELEGATION
OF NORWAY TO THE OSCE**

RESPONSE to the CiO's report on the outcome of the negotiations on the continued OSCE presence throughout Georgia

As delivered by Ambassador Guttorm Vik
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
14 May 2009

Madam Chairperson,

Let me first join previous speakers in paying a sincere tribute to the Greek Chairmanship for the tremendous and honest efforts laid down in the search for a compromise solution that would secure a robust and meaningful OSCE presence throughout Georgia, in full respect of her independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity. The CiO's proposal, if not ideal, was still a viable and very reasonable compromise that we and the rest of the participating States should have been able to live with, as it was status neutral. Norway is sincerely disappointed by Russia's failure to join the consensus and we deeply regret this situation, since our organisation still has so much important work to do throughout Georgia. While we fully understand and respect the Chairmanship's decision to discontinue the efforts to find yet another, hitherto untried solution, I would like to join your appeal, Madam Chairperson, which was also seconded by other speakers, and once more urge Russia to reconsider its position and support the Chairmanship's draft decision.

Madam Chairperson,

As we have stated on numerous previous occasions, there is a clear need for a strengthened OSCE presence in the region. Norway, together with the vast majority

of the participating States, wants an OSCE presence in Georgia with two main components: a) a strong presence of military observers to, inter alia, oversee adherence to the August 12 six-point agreement by all the parties to the conflict, contribute to ease tensions and prevent unfortunate incidents, and provide reliable and unbiased information, and b) a full-fledged regular Mission to assist the host country in promoting the further positive development of Georgian society and institutions.

Finally, Madam Chairperson, I would like to echo your remarks and the remarks of several previous speakers, commending the Georgian delegation for its flexible and constructive attitude throughout the process.

Thank you, Madam Chairperson