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Canadian Delegation to the
Organization for Security & Cooperation
in Europe



Délégation du Canada auprès de
l'Organisation pour la sécurité et la coopération
en Europe

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF CANADA TO THE OSCE
ON THE MISSILE INCIDENT IN GEORGIA, ON 6TH AUGUST 2007.
679TH MEETING OF THE PERMANENT COUNCIL
SEPTEMBER 6TH, 2007**

Canada joins others in welcoming H.E. Dr. Zuzul back to the Permanent Council. We thank him for his work to date as Personal Representative to the Spanish Chairman in Office, his report and for his observations about possible future steps. We have taken careful note of his emphasis on how the OSCE can assist in future conflict prevention. We welcome the Spanish Chair's engagement in addressing this issue.

Canada has followed the 6 August missile incident in Georgia with great concern. We have taken careful note of the conclusions of the various investigations that have been carried out to date.

We would welcome presentations in the Permanent Council of all the investigations for an opportunity to hear further details about this serious event.

Canada commends the seriousness and restraint with which the Government of Georgia has acted and encourages the continuation of this constructive behaviour.

It is Canada's view that the OSCE is well placed to address tensions resulting from the incident. The OSCE has regional presence, an active OSCE Mission in Georgia and is tasked with facilitating a solution to the conflict in South Ossetia.

Canada supports all existing efforts to resolve this regional conflict and encourages all parties to resume negotiations in the Joint Control Commission format.

We further believe that the OSCE could expand its programming in Georgia to further assist Georgian authorities in border programmes to ensure that incidents of this nature can be avoided in the future.

Expanded border programming along with the establishment of additional military monitors in South Ossetia could contribute significantly to building confidence and to conflict resolution in the region.

This conflict can only be resolved through peaceful negotiation and with respect for Georgian sovereignty and territorial integrity. It is Canada's hope that the OSCE can continue to play a positive role in this regard.