

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

**DELEGATION OF CANADA TO THE OSCE
STATEMENT ON SITUATION IN ABKHAZIA, GEORGIA
712TH MEETING OF THE PERMANENT COUNCIL
8 MAY 2008**

Canada remains greatly concerned over the heightened tensions in the Abkhazia region of Georgia.

As our delegation has previously stated, in our 30 April 2008 intervention at the 544th meeting of the Forum for Security Cooperation and on 24 April 2008 in our intervention at the 710th Permanent Council Meeting, we hope that there will be a full accounting of the incident regarding an unarmed drone being shot down over Abkhazia, Georgia on 20 April 2008. This incident has escalated tensions and made a difficult situation worse.

Canada urges the Russian Federation to provide its fullest cooperation to assist in the resolution of this unfortunate incident. Furthermore, Canada notes with concern that the Russian Federation's decision to increase its forces in Georgia has led to an increase in tensions. Canada urges the Russian Federation, in line with its role as a neutral facilitator, to do its utmost to lower the tensions that currently exist.

Canada continues to call on all parties involved to display renewed restraint in words and deeds. We reiterate the necessity of peaceful and constructive negotiations leading to a resolution of this conflict in a manner that respects the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Georgia.