



**PERMANENT DELEGATION
OF NORWAY TO THE OSCE**

STATEMENT REGARDING RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN GEORGIA

As delivered by Ambassador Guttorm Vik
to the Special Meeting of the Permanent Council, Vienna
14 July 2008

Thank you Mr. Chairman,

The Norwegian delegation joins the previous speaker in welcoming OSCE Special Representative for the Southern Caucasus, Ambassador Heikki Talvitie, back to the Permanent Council, and commend him for his timely visit to the region.

Mr, Chairman,

All participating States of this organisation, including the Russian Federation, have expressed their commitment to Georgia's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity. We therefore share the concerns just expressed by France on behalf of the EU and by the USA over the reports about unauthorised flights over South Ossetia, Georgia, on 8 July. We also took note of and were alarmed by the statement made by the Russian Foreign Ministry on 10 July, confirming that the flights were carried out by Russian military aircraft without the approval of the Georgian government. The entry of Russian military aircraft into Georgia's airspace without Georgian consent constitutes an unacceptable violation of Georgia's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Mr. Chairman,

Norway remains deeply concerned about the rising tensions in the region, brought about by a number of actions over the recent weeks. We urge all parties to resume a peaceful dialogue and to refrain from further actions and provocations that could aggravate the situation. We once again call for a peaceful solution of conflicts with full respect for the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Georgia.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.