



PERMANENT DELEGATION
OF NORWAY TO THE OSCE

STATEMENT ON THE SITUATION IN GEORGIA

As delivered by Ambassador Guttorm Vik
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
November 8, 2007

Thank you Mr. Chairman,

Norway regrets the introduction of a state of emergency in Georgia. The massive use of riot police, the suspension of the work of media and the declaration of a state of emergency give cause for serious concern. The current crisis might threaten Georgian democracy if it is allowed to continue.

Mr. Chairman,

Georgia has made considerable democratic progress in only a few years. This is a process to which Norway has lent considerable and wholehearted support. It is now important that all forces in Georgia co-operate in order to restore a situation of normality and to continue the reform processes within the framework of the country's democratic institutions.

Norway hopes that Georgian authorities will engage in a dialogue with the opposition in order to restore order in the country. We urge both sides to show restraint and resolve the political differences within democratic institutions, and we hope that the measures just mentioned by our Georgian colleague will contribute to that end.

Thank you.