

STATEMENT
On Russia's Military Attack on Georgia

The Saeima of the Republic of Latvia announces that:

- The Saeima, along with Latvia's society, has been following the events in Georgia during the past days, condemns Russia's military attack on Georgia and expresses its condolences to the relatives of the deceased. The Saeima considers that Russia has violated Georgia's national sovereignty and the state's inviolability by conducting military attacks on Georgia's civilian and military objects. These actions create concerns about the security, territorial inviolability and independence of every country that is Russia's neighbour.
- The Saeima expresses support for Georgia's national sovereignty and the territorial unity within its internationally recognised borders,
- Russia's peace-keeping mission in Georgia has failed; not only border conflicts have remained unresolved, but disproportionate hostilities have been provoked causing the death of civilians and significantly damaging Georgia's civilian and military infrastructure,
- By commencing military operations against Georgia, Russia, a permanent member of the UN Security Council, has violated its international commitment by unilaterally and broadly interpreting the tasks of a peace-keeping mission and thus discrediting itself as a peace-keeper in the region,
- Russia's actions – military operations against Georgia and rhetoric about defending the interests of its citizens in other countries by the use of military force – create serious concerns that such actions set a dangerous precedent in international relations.

The Saeima of the Republic of Latvia calls on:

The parties involved in the conflict:

- to cease military operations, to refrain from all use of force, to resume negotiations about resolving the situation, to ensure the access for the international society so that it can assess the situation, as well as render medical and humanitarian aid to victims, refugees and displaced persons;

The Russian Federation:

- to immediately withdraw its troops from Georgia's territory;

Member states of the European Union and NATO, OSCE, the European Parliament, the Council of Europe, UN and other international organisations:

- on the basis of Georgia's territorial integrity within its internationally recognised borders, to immediately begin internationally-led negotiations about restoring peace and settling the situation; to achieve involvement of forces from states not engaged in the conflict in the post-conflict stabilization process, with the EU playing a significant role;

EU member states, members of the European Parliament and the European Commission:

- to get actively involved in the implementation of the peace plan initiated by France, the EU presiding country, and to ensure relief resources for Georgia for rapid elimination of the consequences of the military conflict,
- to promote efficient implementation of basic EU principles and values by preventing situations when unilateral military actions can threaten the existence of sovereign countries;
- when drafting the new EU-Russia partnership and co-operation agreement, to re-assess the existing relations between the EU and Russia, as well as procedures for issuing visas,
- to clearly define prospects for EU enlargement, thus creating a clear vision of the future for those European countries which have expressed a wish to join the EU;

to activate conclusion of association agreements and implementation of a visa liberalisation regime with these countries;

Member states of North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO):

- to assess the new security situation which has emerged in the world after the Russian – Georgian conflict and see to it that the EU and NATO find solutions that would strengthen and guarantee the future security of all the neighbouring states of Russia;
- to intensify dialogue about Georgia's joining NATO and to start involving Georgia in the Membership Action Plan for NATO.

Speaker of the Saeima

Gundars Daudze

Riga, 14 August 2008