



Concluding Remarks of President Petros Efthymiou

OSCE PA Economic Conference

Batumi, Georgia – 14 May 2012

As prepared for delivery

Mr. Deputy Chairman, distinguished guest and colleagues,

Before we begin, on behalf of the Assembly I would like to take a moment to express our condolences to the families who lost loved ones in this weekend's flooding in Tblisi.

I trust I speak for us all in thanking our gracious and generous hosts. Mr. Tsereteli, you and Chairman Bakradze and the staff of the Georgian Parliament have provided such excellent hospitality, we have been impressed at every turn.

After three days of learning more about your country and debating the way forward for the entire OSCE region in economic co-operation and development, we know this conference has been a success.

A few more thank-you's are also in order -- to our professional team of interpreters who have done an excellent job allowing people from Canada to Kazakhstan to discuss and understand one another. Thank you, and to the staff of the international secretariat for its work to make this conference a reality as well.

May Batumi be but the beginning of our heightened focus on economic co-operation. The OSCE's three dimensions –

political-military, economic and environmental, and human rights – are all equal parts of our comprehensive security vision. But the economic crisis has rightly refocused our attention on the second dimension.

We know the result of prolonged joblessness. We know the unrest that results from severe austerity measures. I am living it in my own country.

These days in Batumi have been filled with valuable contributions from governments, parliamentarians, and the private sector to help us achieve our common goals, but to make them most meaningful, we must take the discussions from this week – and turn them into concrete plans we can vote on at our Annual Session and later implement in our own countries.

I'm proud of the robust attendance and participation from the OSCE governmental side here in Batumi. This new era of co-operation on display again here with the presence of several OSCE Ambassadors is a reminder of the needed communication between governments and parliaments.

And as I said in my opening address – this co-operation and communication is still not substitute for parliamentary oversight. At home I hope you will share the knowledge gained here – whether it was your first hand visit to the streamlined government services at Batumi's public service hall or something you gained from a discussion in one of the sessions. As delegates, I hope you will infuse your

parliaments with hearings and briefings and eventually legislation stemming from our dialogue.

Good luck to us all.