

Press Release

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PACE co-rapporteurs concerned about the possibility of fresh hostilities between Georgia and Russia

Strasbourg, 17.12.2008 – The two Monitoring Committee co-rapporteurs of the Council of Europe's Parliamentary Assembly (PACE) on the consequences of the war between Russia and Georgia have expressed serious concern that the escalation of tensions and provocations along the administrative borders could lead to "renewed clashes or an outbreak of hostilities" between the two member states.

In a preliminary draft explanatory memorandum made public today by PACE's Monitoring Committee, meeting in Paris, Luc van den Brande (Belgium, EPP/CD) and Mátyás Eörsi (Hungary, ALDE) called for access for international monitors to South Ossetia and Abkhazia, and said this access, as well as the establishment of a new internationalised peacekeeping format and force, was "crucial" for stability in the region.

They also called on Russia to put an immediate halt to the "looting, pillaging and ethnic cleansing" taking place in South Ossetia, which they have so far failed to stop.

Georgia "has complied with many, but not all" of the demands made by the Assembly outlined in its October resolution on the consequences of the war, they said, while Russia "has not yet complied with a significant number of key demands made by the Assembly". This included the many demands "that are not related to, and therefore have no effect on, the question of the status of the two break-away regions", they pointed out.

Both co-rapporteurs visited Tbilisi with PACE's Presidential Committee at the end of October. They will present their final report to the Monitoring Committee, including a preliminary draft resolution, after the visit of the Presidential Committee to Moscow, planned for 18-19 January 2008. The Monitoring Committee will adopt its final report at its meeting on 26 January 2009. The Assembly is due to debate the conflict for the second time on Wednesday 28 January during its Winter plenary Session.

[Preliminary draft explanatory memorandum](#)

The Parliamentary Assembly brings together 318 members from the national parliaments of the 47 member states.

President: Lluís Maria de Puig (Spain, SOC) ; Secretary General of the Assembly: Mateo Sorinas.

Political Groups: EPP/CD (Group of the European People's Party); SOC (Socialist Group); EDG (European Democratic Group); ALDE (Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe); UEL (Group of the Unified European Left).