



Secretariat  
of the  
Association  
c/o Conseil  
de l'Europe  
F-67075  
Strasbourg  
Cedex

Permanent Representation of Georgia to the Council of Europe  
To His Excellency, the Ambassador  
Mr Zurab Tchiaberashvili  
Strasbourg  
France

Strasbourg, 11 August 2008

PR\_40\_08

Dear Ambassador,



On behalf of the Association of Local Democracy Agencies I would like to convey to you our concern and support for Georgia and its people in the present difficult circumstances. The violation of Georgian territory and thereby of international law by the Russian Federation is contrary to the spirit and aims of our Association. There can be no justification for the damage and casualties caused by the military aggression we are witnessing.

As you know, we have for the last two years through the Local Democracy Agency in Kutaisi endeavoured to promote local democracy and respect for human and minority rights in the region and will continue to do so together with the international partners of the Agency who I know are equally concerned about the recent developments. We also work closely with the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe in this respect.

Through our associates on the ground in Kutaisi we will follow developments and their impact on the local level, not least as far as the local population is concerned. Where possible we shall make an effort to provide additional moral and financial support for the activities of the Agency in order to assist within our means the recovery from the present conflict as well as Georgia's preparations for closer relation with the European Union and eventually NATO membership.

Please accept, Your Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Per VINTHER  
President

Copies:

Members of the ALDA Governing Board  
Ms Antonella Valmorbida, Director ALDA  
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Delegate of LDA Kutaisi  
Mr Ulrich Bohner, Secretary General of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe

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