

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1821/09
by Giulietto Chiesa (PSE)
to the Council

Subject: Rearmament and reorganisation of the Georgian army

According to reliable information I have obtained, the Georgian government is receiving a conspicuous amount of new armaments from various sources.

The Russian media has reported the presence of 'Cobra'-style French air defence systems and modern short- and medium-range radar systems. Israel is apparently one of the countries providing these new armaments, some of which are clearly of an offensive nature.

It has also come to my attention that the reorganisation of the First Infantry Brigade, stationed at Gori, in close proximity to the border with South Ossetia, has apparently been completed and that training is being carried out at the Orpholo firing range, also near to the boundary line.

Are the European observers aware of these preparations?

If so, does the Council not consider that the situation is developing in a way that poses a threat to peacekeeping in the area?

Or does the Council consider this military reorganisation to be normal, in the absence of tangible developments in the Geneva negotiations?