

WRITTEN QUESTION P-6054/08
by Tatjana Ždanoka (Verts/ALE)
to the Council

Subject: Situation around Tskhinval (South Ossetia)

On 25 and 26 October I visited the Republic of North Ossetia-Alania (Russian Federation) at the invitation of the Chair of the Parliament. I've also managed to visit South Ossetia and its capital Tskhinval.

On 26 October in the morning I examined the situation at the border of South Ossetia on the principal road from Tskhinval to Gori and Tbilisi. This border point near the village of Ergneti is extremely important from a security point of view. It is situated on the hill from which Tskhinval in the valley can be observed. I remained at this point for more than one hour (from 8.30 to 9.45). During this period of time I did not notice any presence of staff of the European Union Monitoring Mission or other persons within a distance of at least 500m.

According to Article 3(2) of the Council Joint Action 2008/736/CFSP¹ of 15 September 2008 on the European Union Monitoring Mission in Georgia, EUMM Georgia, one of the mission's tasks is monitoring the security of transport links.

- Does the Council intend to guarantee the security of the Tskhinval city by deploying EUMM Georgia?
- Is guaranteeing and/or monitoring such security possible without any permanent or temporary posts of EUMM Georgia near Tskhinval?
- Does the Council take any responsibility for possible resumption of hostilities due to inadequate protection of Tskhinval?

¹ OJ L 248, 17.9.2008, p. 26.