

Peter Semneby was appointed EU Special Representative for the **South Caucasus** on 20 February 2006. His mandate runs until 28 February 2011 and includes the following EU policy objectives in the South Caucasus: assisting Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia in carrying out political and economic reforms; preventing conflicts in the region and contributing to the peaceful settlement of conflicts, including through promoting the return of refugees and internally displaced persons; and encouraging and supporting further cooperation between states of the region, including on economic, energy and transport issues.

1. Peter Semneby, EU Special Representative for the South Caucasus

The latest enlargement of the EU has brought the South Caucasus neighbourhood even closer to the EU. The new proximity of this neighbourhood along with the region's geographic location between the Black Sea and the Caspian, between Russia, Turkey and Iran, and as a link between Europe and Asia makes the South Caucasus a key strategic region for the EU.

Following the outbreak of open hostilities between Georgia and Russia in August 2008, the EU took immediate steps to secure a ceasefire, stabilise the situation and facilitate political talks between the parties. This engagement demonstrates just how important the EU considers the region to be.

As EUSR for the South Caucasus, I work to further the EU's agenda in the countries of the region - Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia - as well as to contribute to the development of a comprehensive EU policy for the South Caucasus. Much of this work is undertaken jointly with the European Commission, in particular in support of the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) Action Plan for the three countries.

My mandate includes assisting the three countries in carrying out political and economic reforms, notably in the fields of rule of law, democratisation, human rights and good governance. I work closely with the Commission in this endeavour.

The EU has been heavily involved in working to resolve the long-standing conflicts over Abkhazia and South Ossetia. Following the outbreak of an armed conflict between Georgia and Russia in August 2008, the EU appointed an EUSR for the Crisis in Georgia and deployed an EU Monitoring Mission (EUMM). I work in tandem with the EUSR for the Crisis in Georgia and provide local political guidance to the EUMM. Even after the war, I will continue to support the implementation of the confidence-building measures that have been agreed jointly with the Commission and myself. This work aims to contribute to the efforts for the peaceful settlement of the conflicts.

A key consideration for the EU in Georgia remains the continuation of democratic reforms, in particular in the area of the rule of law. As the elections in Georgia have not resolved



political differences within society, I am actively engaged in promoting constructive political dialogue between the government and opposition - a prerequisite for long-lasting political stability in Georgia. I am also involved in promoting the development of free and independent media.

The EUSR structure includes the EU Border Support Team, which has been developing a border management strategy and implementation plan for Georgia and is building the capacity of Georgian border guards. The work of the BST has proved successful in moving Georgia towards best European practices and standards for integrated border management.

In Armenia, I promote the ongoing democratisation process, the rule of law and media freedom in order to facilitate the reforms necessary for making Armenia a vibrant and functioning democracy.

I also facilitate contacts between officials and civil society in Armenia and Turkey with a view to addressing outstanding issues and providing the basis for the re-establishment of relations. Improved bilateral relations between the two countries would contribute to the overall stability and prosperity of the South Caucasus.

Azerbaijan is an important partner for the EU given the country's vast oil and gas reserves and its location as a bridge to Central Asia. The EU has strategic energy interests in Azerbaijan, in particular as a source of energy and as a potential transit country. I am also working for progress in democratisation, media freedom, and human rights. Progress in this area will be a key determinant for the EU's long-term relationship with Azerbaijan.

The ongoing conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh remains a major preoccupation for the EU in its relationship with the region. I support the work of the Minsk Group to promote a peaceful and sustainable solution; the EU moreover stands ready to promote confidence-building measures between the parties.

As EUSR for the South Caucasus, I take a regional approach to the three countries. The linkages between the three countries are strong in terms of their security, stability, and ability to move closer towards the European Union. In this context, I consider the opening up of borders between the countries and their neighbours to be of paramount importance.

Peter Semneby's appointment and mandate are set out in Joint Actions [2006/121/CFSP](#), [2008/132/CFSP](#), [2008/796/CFSP](#), [2009/133/CFSP](#) and Council Decisions [2010/109/CFSP](#) and [2010/449/CFSP](#)



2. Curriculum Vitae

Peter Semneby
EU Special Representative for the South Caucasus

YEAR OF BIRTH:1959

NATIONALITY:Swedish

EDUCATION

Stockholm School of Economics, University of Uppsala, University of Stockholm, and the John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University

Language fluency:English, French, German, Russian and Croatian/Serbian

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2002 – 2005

Head of the OSCE Mission to Croatia:

assisting Croatia with post-conflict rehabilitation and political requirements for EU membership: refugee return, minority rights, judicial reform, war crimes trials, police reform, media legislation, electoral legislation and civil society development

2000 – 2002

Head of the OSCE Mission to Latvia:

developing policies, legislation and institutions on a range of sensitive issues related to the Russian-speaking minority, in particular citizenship issues and language legislation

1997 – 2000

Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs

responsible for European Security and Defence Policy

1992

OSCE Mission to Georgia

before

served in Swedish embassies in Germany, Ukraine and the USSR

3. Presentations, Speeches, Testimonies

Presentations

- 2006-10-05 [Presentation to the External Affairs Committee of the European Parliament](#)
- 2007-03-01 [Presentation at the European Policy Centre, Brussels](#)
- 2007-02-08 [Presentation at the OSCE Permanent Council, Vienna](#)
- 2007-04-09 [Lecture at the Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies, Johns Hopkins University, Washington, DC](#)
- 2007-04-20 [Presentation at the 65th Rose-Roth Seminar of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, Tbilisi, Georgia](#)
- 2007-05-14 [Forum of Azerbaijani Students in Europe \(FASE\)](#)
- 2007-10-02 [Presentation to the External Affairs Committee of the European Parliament](#)
- 2008-02-02 [Presentation to the Armenian General Benevolent Union, Brussels](#)
- 2008-06-12 [Presentation to the Permanent Council of the OSCE, Vienna](#)
- 2008-06-24 [Presentation to the External Affairs Committee of the European Parliament](#)
- 2008-12-14 [Presentation at the Moscow State Institute for International Relations: "Black Sea Region and Multilateral Cooperation"](#)
- 2009-01-19 [Presentation to the External Affairs Committee of the European Parliament](#)
- 2009-05-28 [Presentation to the Permanent Council of the OSCE, Vienna](#)
- 2009-10-06 [Presentation at the Berlin Roundtable on Diplomacy, Federal Foreign Office, Berlin: "The EU and the South Caucasus: Where are We Today?"](#)
- 2009-11-05 [Presentation at a conference at the Freeman Spogli Institute for International Relations, Stanford University, Palo Alto, California: "Between Moscow and Brussels: Emerging States, East or West?"](#)
- 2009-11-11 [Presentation to the External Affairs Committee of the European Parliament](#)
- 2010-05-04 [Testimony to the Helsinki Commission, Congress of the United States: "Mitigating Inter-Ethnic Conflict in the OSCE Region"](#)
- 2010-07-08 [Presentation to the Permanent Council of the OSCE, Vienna](#)
- 2010-07-08 [Testimony at a hearing of the Monitoring Committee of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, Paris: "The Consequences of the War between Georgia and Russia"](#)
- 2011-01-17 [Presentation to the Permanent Council of the OSCE, Vienna](#)
- 2011-02-10 [Presentation to the Permanent Council of the OSCE, Vienna](#)

Articles

- [Article TPQ 2006 "The Role of the EU in the Resolution of Conflicts in the South Caucasus"](#)



[Article in Turkish Policy Quarterly 2007 " The Role of the EU in the Resolution of conflicts in the South Caucasus"](#)

[Article in From Early Warning to Early Action EC IfS 2009 "Preserving Status quo is dangerous"](#)

["Spotlight on Georgia", Foreign Policy Centre, London, 2009 "](#)

["Conflict and Security in Nagorno-Karabakh: What Contribution from](#)

4. EUSR Border Support Team (BST)

FACTSHEET

The EUSR Border Support Team (BST) in Georgia includes officials from six EU Member States assisted by three local experts. It is headed by Lieutenant Colonel Håkan Rapp of Sweden. The Team assists the Georgian Border Police and other relevant Georgian government institutions in the preparation of a comprehensive border management reform strategy. Elaboration of the border management strategy, along with other border related reforms, is among the priority actions listed in the Georgian ENP Action Plan. The border management reform strategy of Georgia follows the Integrated Border Management model and covers all the elements of the European Four-Tier Border Security System. The ultimate goal is to establish a well-functioning and integrated border management system in Georgia.

The Team is working on bylaws and regulations related to the new Law on Border Police, on Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for the Green Border and Border Crossing Points (BCP), on the SOP for the Headquarters BCP and Regional Headquarters and on creating conditions for the interagency co-operation (border police, customs, police, security forces and other relevant authorities). BST works closely with the Georgian authorities to improve communication between Tbilisi and the border, in particular with the Regional Border Guard Centres. BST advisers regularly visit Georgian border police sectors and border crossing points in order to provide advice on the ground on the implementation of the border management reforms. The Team's activities cover the entire length of Georgia's borders except the conflict zones of Abkhazia and South Ossetia.

The EUSR Border Support Team in Georgia was established on 1 September 2005, following the closure of the OSCE Border Monitoring Mission (BMO) in Georgia. The Council Joint Action 2005/582/CFSP of 28 July 2005, amending and extending the mandate of the European Union Special Representative for the South Caucasus, established the EUSR Border Support Team in Georgia. The EUSR Border Support Team had an initial six month mandate, which was extended for 12 months with Council Joint Action 2006/121/CFSP of 20 February 2006. In February 2007 it was extended with Joint Action 5128/07 for a further 12 months until 29 February 2008.

July 2007

5. CONTACT - EUSR for South Caucasus TEAM

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