



EU INTEGRATION & COMMON SECURITY: MAKING IT HAPPEN  
The 6th annual meeting of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum  
20-21 November 2014, Batumi, Georgia

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**STATEMENT OF EASTERN PARTNERSHIP CIVIL SOCIETY FORUM  
adopted in Batumi, Georgia, November 21, 2014**

**ON THE JOINT PRINCIPLES FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CIVIL SOCIETY PLATFORMS BETWEEN  
THE EUROPEAN UNION AND UKRAINE, REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA, AND GEORGIA**

The Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum welcomes the launch of the process of the establishment of bilateral civil society platforms (CSPs) under the Association Agreements (AAs) between the EU on the one side and Ukraine, Republic of Moldova, and Georgia on the other side.

EaP CSF notes that the provisions of the three Association Agreements with regards to the CSPs lack clarity concerning the basis of establishment of the CSPs, and that this omission needs to be resolved to ensure their effective and accountable implementation. Resolution of the format of the CSPs is needed to resolve the growing dispute over its composition in Ukraine, and to ensure that such disagreements will not be replicated in the Republic of Moldova and Georgia.

The AAs envisage that the members of the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) and the CSF National Platforms will be responsible for the composition of the CSPs, but do not stipulate the rules governing the CSPs' composition.

The existing provisions of the AAs between the EU and Ukraine, Republic of Moldova, and Georgia do not give any exclusive rights to the EESC to determine the way in which the partner country composition of CSPs is established nor does it pre-determine their proportional composition.

The AAs' provisions do not stipulate that trade unions, employers' associations or any other non-governmental actors have the exclusive right to obtain specific quotas in the CSPs. The EESC, however, insists that such quotas must be in place.

The lack of legal clarity and the growing difference in interpretation of the AAs' provisions might lead to a long-running stalemate that could undermine the establishment of the CSPs and jeopardise the institutional setup of the AAs between the EU and respectively Ukraine, Republic of Moldova, and Georgia.

Taking this into account the risks and concerns outlined above, the EaP CSF proposes the following:

We call for the immediate launch of a multilateral political consultation with regards the formation of CSPs in Ukraine, Republic of Moldova, and Georgia under the AAs. We ask the EU Council, the European Commission, the European Parliament, the European External Action Service (EEAS), the EESC, the governments of the three Eastern Partner countries that are signatories to AAs with the EU, and the three respective National Platforms of EaP CSF, **to establish a Multilateral Task Force** with the aim to solve this dispute.

We call all parts involved to accept the following basic principles to underpin the establishment of the bilateral CSPs:

1. All three CSPs between the EU on the one side, and Ukraine, Republic of Moldova, and Georgia on the other side, should be established in accordance with a uniform model identical for all three countries.
2. All future members of the bilateral CSPs should be selected in an open, transparent, and accountable process, where members are selected on the basis of their individual merits. There should be no pre-arranged privileges or quotas for any civil society actors or groups. The CSPs should comprise democratic actors engaged in European integration in line with the provisions of the AAs, bringing civil society expertise to the table, including the expertise of social partners.
3. Each CSP should have two co-Chairs. The EU side of each CSP should be chaired by an EESC member, and the partner country side by a representative of the EaP CSF National Platform.

We authorize the Steering Committee of the EaP CSF to send official letters to respective institutions with the proposal to create an abovementioned Multilateral Task Force.