



EaP CSF Georgian National Platform
Appeal to the European Commission and EU Member States

The civil society of Georgia considers the process of visa liberalization with the European Union to be of the highest importance.

We are convinced that the country has made considerable progress in all areas of reforms envisaged by the Visa Liberalization Action Plan since its initiation in June 2012. These legal and institutional reforms have strengthened the country's ability to control migration flows, and to ensure the security of personal documents and data. Asylum and migration policy reforms provide conditions for reasonable treatment of refugees and readmitted persons of all categories. In addition, an improved integrated border management system, police and other relevant services enable effective control and considerably restricts cross-border criminal activity. Moreover Georgia has progressed in terms of human rights protection, and that needs further support and assistance.

The granting of a visa-free arrangement to Georgian citizens travelling to EU would, in our view, increase mutual understanding, create better possibilities for people-to-people contacts, and provide solid ground for cultural convergence, business links and connections. For a considerable number of Georgian citizens it would provide the opportunity and encouragement to embrace Europe.

A visa-free regime, if granted, would have a deep impact on the promotion of European ideals among Georgian citizens who, through visits of varying lengths, could gain a better

understanding of and connection with, the European continent. It would also represent tangible progress in our relations with the EU, a real achievement that would have a direct influence on the perception of Georgian citizens toward the EU. They would feel themselves real Europeans, accepted and received by the European family, and take on a responsibility to enhance and protect Georgia's relations with Europe. In the longer term it would influence attitudes of Georgian citizens towards European values, evolve political culture and contribute to a mental transformation of the society towards a highly developed democratic unity of citizens.

Visa liberalization would also be the best response to external challenges which have the potential to drive Georgia away from the Europeanization process. In this regard, the use of anti-European propaganda can be influential and requires a well-evidenced counter argument.

Finally, we consider a visa-free regime, securing free movement of people between Georgia and EU, to be a key factor in the successful implementation of the Association Agreement and DCFTA, which has become operational since September 2014.

We kindly request the European Commission to take all of the above mentioned arguments into account and call on EU Member States to support the granting of a visa-free regime to Georgia.

Signatory Organizations:

1. European Initiative - Liberal Academy Tbilisi
2. Eurasia Partnership Foundation
3. Georgian Foundation for Strategic and International Studies
4. Foundation "Caucasus Environment"
5. Youth Alternative
6. Human Rights Centre

7. Union "Healthy Children"
8. Association for the efficient use of the Georgian energy resources
9. Biological Farming Association "Elkana"
10. Georgian Association of Regional Broadcasters
11. International Press Institute - Georgian national committee
12. Georgian Institute of Politics
13. "Women Enterprise" Fund Georgia
14. International Center for Advancement of Research, Technology & Innovation
15. Association DEA for Disabled Women and Mothers of Disabled Children
16. Partnership For Road Safety
17. Georgian Young Lawyers' Association (GYLA)
18. Institute for Development of Freedom of Information; (IDFI)
19. Human Rights Priority
20. Save The Future Generation
21. International Business Development and Investment Promotion Centre
22. Association of Tea Producers Georgia "Georgian Tea"
23. Georgian Association "Woman in Business"
24. Association European Studies for Innovative Development in Georgia
25. Samtskhe-Javakheti Regional Association "Toleranti"
26. The Center for Strategic Research and Development of Georgia
27. Civil Society Institute
28. "Agroservice"
29. World Experience for Georgia
30. Center of Development and Democracy
31. OXFAM Georgia
32. Research-Intellectual Club "Dialogue of Generations"
33. International Center of Geopolitical Research

34. Local Democracy Agency
35. Foundation "Multi- Ethnic Resource Centre on Civic Education Development"
36. Union "Article 42 of the Constitution"
37. Women's Initiatives supporting Group
38. United Public Movement "Multinational Georgia"
39. IDP Association "Consent"
40. Student Youth Council
41. Public Advocacy
42. Healthy World
43. Youth for Justice – Georgia
44. Institute for Policy Studies
45. Human Rights House Tbilisi
46. Innovations and Reforms Center
47. Union "Anti-Violence Network of Georgia"
48. International Organization of Human Rights protection and Prisoners social welfare
49. International Center for Civic Culture
50. International Center on Conflict and Negotiation
51. People's Harmonious Development Society
52. International Foundation "LEA"
53. Union "Ecotech"
54. Civil Society and Democracy Development Center
55. Economic Policy Research Center (EPRC)
56. Association "MERKURI"
57. Georgian Trade Union Confederation
58. Teachers' Union "Education and Universe"
59. Junior achievement of Georgia

60. Peaceful and Business Caucasus
61. Community Foundation GENIUS LOCI
62. International Center for Environmental Research
63. Centre of Innovative Development of Enterprises
64. Analytical Center for Interethnic Cooperation and Consultations
65. Union of Azerbaijani Women in Georgia
66. Association of Youth Journalists "New Vision"
67. Caucasus Institute for Economic and Social Research
68. International Society "Caucasian Mosaic"
69. Georgia Press Association
70. Association "Atinati"
71. Georgian Red Cross Society
72. European Centre for Minority Issues
73. Caucasian House Georgia
74. Coalition Homecare Georgia