**A summary of resolutions adopted by the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum on 5 October 2013 in Chisinau, the Republic of Moldova**

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At the plenary session of the Fifth Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum more than 250 delegates of civil society organisations have agreed on the **priority issues for the Forum** by drawing resolutions. In the coming weeks the Forum based on discussions during the Civil Society Forum in Chisinau will develop its recommendations to the Eastern Partnership Summit in Vilnius. The following resolutions have been adopted by the Forum:

1. The Civil Society Forum reiterates its **support for the Eastern Partnership (EaP) as an effective and peaceful mechanism of promoting democratic reforms** including the establishment of the rule of law and sustainable market mechanisms in the six EaP countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine, and calls on the EU member states and EaP governments **to retain its multilateral character.**

**The progress on Association Agreements (AAs) by some of the EaP countries should not cause major differences in the treatment of EaP countries by the EU**. It would run counter to the basic principles of the EaP if the European Union was from now on to busy itself with monitoring the implementation of AAs in some countries and to lose sight of the need to continue to support the democratic reform process in others. T**hose countries which have fallen behind in democratic and economic reforms and in the drive to put AAs into place now need more attention than before**.

The Vilnius summit mustcontinue **to focus on finding the best way of supporting the reform process in all the EaP countries. There can be no better way of securing the EU’s security than by continuing to work for the establishment of legitimate regimes and prosperous societies on its eastern borders**. Those EU member states who do not understand this demonstrate a short sightedness which, in the not too distant past, has led to tragic calamities in Europe. Only those countries which respect human rights including a free press, which seek to combat corruption and which chose their leaders and law makers in a free and fair way are inherently stable. **The European Union needs stable, free and prosperous neighbours in its eastern region.** This is a message from Chisinau which the EaP summit in Vilnius must not forget.

[Joint Declaration of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum](http://www.eap-csf.eu/assets/files/Chisinau/Resolutions/Joint_Declaration_of_the_Eastern_Partnership_Civil_Society_Forum.pdf)

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1. The EaP Civil Society Forum welcomes **the historic prospect of the EaP Summit in Vilnius for Ukraine, Georgia, and Moldova to sign or initial Association Agreements** with the European Union. What is at stake is not only a technical procedure, but the establishment of the democratic institutions, strengthening the rule of law and human rights protection, reducing corruption and eradicating poverty, raising labour, environmental and social standards, which would lead to peace and prosperity in EaP countries.

The Forum calls on **the EU member states to support the declaration by Ukraine, Moldova, and Georgia of their will to closely cooperate with the EU and implement a European choice**. Ukraine occupies a special place and its EU integration process will be confirmed by the signing of the Association Agreement. This will be a test for the credibility and efficacy of the European Partnership initiative, the results of which will influence the next steps of the authorities in Moldova and Georgia. **The Forum appeals to the governments of the EU member states and of the Eastern Partnership to make every effort that this opportunity will not be wasted**.

[Resolution of the EaP Civil Society Forum calling the EU to support Ukraine, Moldova and Georgia in their European choice](http://37.59.160.117/assets/files/Chisinau/Resolutions/RESOLUTION_on_EU%20to%20support_European%20choice%282%29.pdf)

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1. The EaP Civil Society Forum expresses its concern with the **constant political and economic pressure exercised by Russian Federation towards the Eastern Partnership countries** ([Resolution of the EaP Civil Society Forum on supporting integration of EaP countries into the EU rather than Customs Union](http://www.eap-csf.eu/assets/files/Chisinau/Resolutions/RESOLUTION_on_integration_into_European_Union%281%29.pdf))including the intensification of so-called “borderisation process” in conflict regions of Georgia ([Resolution of the EaP Civil Society Forum on latest developments along the occupation line with breakaway South Ossetia](http://37.59.160.117/assets/files/Chisinau/Resolutions/RESOLUTION_of_the_Eastern_Partnership_Civil_Society_Forum_South_Ossetia%20%281%29.pdf)) and economic warfare conducted by Russia towards Ukraine and Moldova.

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1. The Civil Society Forum **condemns the intention of the authorities of the Republic of Armenia to join the Customs Union and and participate in the Eurasian Union**, which has led to the failure of the initialling of the Association Agreement and non-democratic, and non-transparent processes in the official decision-making, as well as external pressure brought by the Russian Federation.

[Statement of the EaP Civil Society Forum on the failure to initial the Association Agreement between Armenia and the EU](http://37.59.160.117/assets/files/Chisinau/Resolutions/Statement_Armenia_EU.pdf)

1. The Forum calls on the EU to **consider a clear timetable for visa liberalization for Moldovan citizens before elections in Moldova in 2014** and ensure the **transparency of the provisions of the Association Agreement** and the documents establishing the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area.

[Statement of the EaP Civil Society Forum on the EU-Moldova Association Agreement and Visa Liberalization Process](http://37.59.160.117/assets/files/Chisinau/Resolutions/STATEMENT_Moldova_Visa_Liberalization_Process.pdf)

1. **The visa liberalisation** process is one of the most powerful tools of European Union (EU) policy in steering fundamental reforms in the Eastern Partnership countries in areas such as human rights, freedom, security and justice. Taking into consideration the achievements of the Republic of Moldova in meeting Visa Liberalisation Action

Plans (VLAPs) benchmarks, The Forum **calls on the EU to grant visa free travel to citizens of Moldova as soon as possible**. **Ukraine and Georgia**, which are already

implementing the VLAP, should **put more effort in overcoming legislative deadlocks** to pass to the implementation of the second phase. At the same time, we call on the EU to ensure that **the visa liberalisation option remains fully open for all the Eastern Partnership countries on the basis of clear conditionality and transparent benchmark assessment**.

[Resolution of the EaP Civil Society Forum Towards a visa free Europe](http://37.59.160.117/assets/files/Chisinau/Resolutions/RESOLUTION_Visa_free_Europe.pdf)

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1. In two countries of the Eastern Partnership, Azerbaijan and Belarus, ongoing systematic violations of human rights, restrictions for the work of civil society organisations, harassment, including criminal persecution, of civil society activists and human rights defenders occur. The EaP Civil Society Forum **calls for creation of favourable conditions for unimpeded functioning of civil society organisations in Azerbaijan and Belarus and views as unacceptable the existence of political prisoners in Eastern Partnership countries**.

[Resolution of the EaP Civil Society Forum on the Massive Political Arrests in Azerbaijan before Presidential Elections and civil rights violations in Belarus](http://37.59.160.117/assets/files/Chisinau/Resolutions/RESOLUTION_on_Belarus_Azer.pdf)

Resolution of the EaP Civil Society Forum on creating favourable conditions for NGO operations in Azerbaijan

The Forum draws attention to the fact that the Azerbaijani government has failed to implement the recommendations of the Venice Commission of the Council of Europe and of the OSCE/ODIR to improve the electoral legislation and practise. The **CSF calls on the Azerbaijani government to conduct the presidential election on October 9 in accordance with international standards**.

[Statement of EaP Civil Society Forum calling Azerbaijani Government to conduct free and fair elections](http://37.59.160.117/assets/files/Chisinau/Resolutions/STATEMENT_Azerbaijan_Presidential_election%283%29.pdf)

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1. The Civil Society Forum is drawing attention to the **illegal surveillance, an instrument of ruling powers to control the opposition, media, and civil society**, happening in EaP countries and the need to come up with effective measures, mechanisms, and recommendations to ensure protection of human rights and data protection reform in EaP countries. The CSF welcomes the process in Georgia with active participation of civil society on revising criminal investigations law and the law guiding mobile operators’ operation.

[Resolution of the EaP Civil Society Forum on fighting illegal surveillance in EaP](http://37.59.160.117/assets/files/Chisinau/Resolutions/RESOLUTION_on_illegal_surveillance_in_EaP.pdf)

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1. The Forum **calls EaP governments** to take the outcry against corruption from their citizens seriously and **respond with concrete actions to elevate transparency and accountability**. The EU should in turn serve as a model for transparent and accountable governance, both at member state and EU institution level. A first step would be **applying a principled approach in EU relations with EaP countries, during their involvement in election monitoring and other democratic processes.**

[Statement of the EaP Civil Society Forum on Anti-corruption measures in EaP countries](http://37.59.160.117/assets/files/Chisinau/Resolutions/STATEMENT_Anti-corruption_measures.pdf) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. The Civil Society Forum calls upon all countries of the EU to confirm the EU’s position as a world leader in climate policy and **to increase its pre-2020 mitigation commitments to the level of at least thirty per cent domestic emissions reduction by 2020,** and to ensure the highest possible **financial contribution to the Green Climate Fund, the Adaptation Fund and the Least Developed Countries Fun**d.

[Resolution of the EaP Civil Society Forum on climate change](http://37.59.160.117/assets/files/Chisinau/Resolutions/RESOLUTION_on_Climate_Change%281%29.pdf)

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1. [Statement calling the Russian authorities to free 30 Greenpeace activists from "Arctic Sunrise", a Greenpeace ship protesting against drilling in the Arctic](http://37.59.160.117/assets/files/Chisinau/Resolutions/Resolution_Green_Peace.pdf)
2. [Recommendations of the Subgroup on Local Government and Public Administration](http://www.eap-csf.eu/assets/files/Chisinau/Resolutions/Recommendations_Subgroup_Public_Administration_Reform%281%29.pdf)

[Reform on Good Local Governance](http://www.eap-csf.eu/assets/files/Chisinau/Resolutions/Recommendations_Subgroup_Public_Administration_Reform%281%29.pdf)

1. [Resolution to eliminate barriers and work on accessibility for people with and without disabilities](http://www.eap-csf.eu/assets/files/Chisinau/Resolutions/RESOLUTION_disabilities.pdf)
2. [Resolution of Working Group 3 on introducing all-party liability mechanisms for environmental and natural ecosystem risk](http://37.59.160.117/assets/files/Chisinau/Resolutions/STATEMENT_Policy_Reform_Assessment_EaP_WG3%282%29.pdf)
3. [Statement on bringing Ukraine into compliance with the Espoo Convention in the nuclear domain](http://37.59.160.117/assets/files/Chisinau/Resolutions/STATEMENT_EspooConvention.pdf)
4. [Resolution on youth policies](http://37.59.160.117/assets/files/Chisinau/Resolutions/RESOLUTION_Youth_Side_Event%283%29.pdf)
5. [Resolution of the EaP Civil Society Forum on ensuring high support from the European Neighbourhood instrument 2014-2020 for fighting poverty and social exclusion in the Eastern Partner countries](http://37.59.160.117/assets/files/Chisinau/Resolutions/RESOLUTION_Fighting_poverty_social_exclusion.pdf)
6. [Recommendations of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum on Energy Policies to EBRD (WG3)](http://www.eap-csf.eu/assets/files/Chisinau/Resolutions/Recommendations_Energy_Policy_EBRD%282%29.pdf)