



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. These legal and institutional reforms have strengthened the country's ability to control migration flows, and to ensure protection of personal data and the security of documents. Asylum and migration policy reforms provide conditions for respectful treatment of refugees, readmitted and the most vulnerable persons.

Creation of proper institutions and mechanisms by the State was an important step to prevent irregular migration. Introduction of modern infrastructure has improved the effectiveness of border management that has considerably restricted illegal crossing, trafficking and other cross-border criminal activity. Moreover, Georgia has progressed in terms of human rights protection that has to be further supported and assisted.

We are deeply convinced that granting the visa-free regime to Georgian citizens would create better possibilities for people-to-people contacts, and provide solid ground for cultural exchange, business links and connections. For a considerable number of Georgian citizens it would provide the opportunity and encouragement to explore and understand Europe without the Myths.

The visa-free regime will significantly promote the European aspirations among the Georgian citizens who would have a real feeling of being part of the European society. This will positively affect their civic responsibility and encourage them to contribute to the development of EU-

Georgia relations. In the longer term, this process will promote formation of a democratic society, based on European values.

Visa liberalization would be the best response to the external challenges the country is facing. The challenges, that could drive Georgia away from the Europeanization process and increase Euroscepticism among its citizens. This could be a well-evidenced counter argument for the Georgian citizens to address the critical approach towards the European integration.

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

We kindly request the European Commission to take all of the above mentioned arguments into account and call on the EU Member States to support the granting of the 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