



ევროკავშირი
საქართველოსთვის

The European Union for Georgia



Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.

INTERNATIONAL PARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE

EU and Partners – Embracing Diversity for Stronger Unity

4 – 5 December 2017
TBILISI, GEORGIA

PROGRAMME

SUNDAY, 3 December 2017

All Day

ARRIVAL OF PARTICIPANTS

Organized transfers between the airport and hotel

Accommodation

Hotel Courtyard by “Marriot”

Conference Venue

Tbilisi Palace of the Parliament of Georgia

18:30

Departure for the Restaurant TBD

19:00

Dinner Hosted by H.E. Irakli Kobakhidze, Chairman of the Parliament of Georgia
(TBC) *By invitations (only)*

Venue: Funicular (seated if possible for international guests only)

MONDAY, 4 December 2017

9:00

REGISTRATION AND MORNING COFFEE

9:30 – 10:00

WELCOME

Ms. Tamar Khulordava - Chairperson of the European Integration Committee, Parliament of Georgia

Opening Remarks:

H.E. Irakli Kobakhidze - Chairman of the Parliament of Georgia

Mr. Ryszard Czarnecki, Vice - President of the European Parliament

H.E. Ambassador Janos Herman - Head of EU Delegation to Georgia

H.E. Niels Scott - UN Resident Coordinator / UNDP Resident Representative in Georgia

10:00 – 10:30

Keynote Speech by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Georgia

H.E. Mikheil Janelidze

10:30 – 11:00

COFFEE BREAK

11:00 – 13:00

Panel 1- EU INTEGRATION – A DRIVING FORCE FOR CONSOLIDATING DEMOCRACY AND PROSPERITY

The session will give an overview of the political and economic reforms inspired by the Association Agreements and other respective partnership instruments and cooperation frameworks with the European Union. Emphasis will be made on achievements, positive effects and benefits of reforms as well as the challenges of transformation. Speakers will elaborate on the power of EU for bringing transformative change to the societies, building and consolidating democratic institutions, fighting corruption, eradicating poverty and ensuring sustainable development. Speakers' interventions will be followed by discussion.

Moderator: Ms. Tamar Khulordava – Chairperson of the European Integration Committee, Parliament of Georgia

Speakers:

1. Ms. Tamar Chugoshvili – First Deputy Chairperson of the Parliament of Georgia
2. H.E. Ivan Brajović – President of the Parliament of Montenegro
3. Mr. Andrius Kubilius – Former Prime Minister of the Republic of Lithuania, Deputy Chair of the Committee on European Affairs, Seima of the Republic of Lithuania
4. Ms. Mariia Ionova – Chairperson of the Committee on European Integration of Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine
5. Ms. Gabriela Crețu – President of the Committee on European Affairs of the Senate of Romania
6. Mr. Miro Kovač – Chairperson of Foreign Affairs Committee of the Croatian Parliament

13:00 – 14:00

COFFEE BREAK

14:00 – 15:30

Panel 2 – CHALLENGES of IMPLEMENTING EU-DRIVEN LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

The session will explore interaction between the legislative and the executive in the process of implementation of the EU driven reforms. Does the competition between the two branches of power ensure speed and quality, or is it an obstacle to flawless implementation. The speakers will elaborate on the Parliament's role in advancing legislative reforms, ensuring compatibility of national legal environment with the EU Aquis and carrying out rigorous parliamentary oversight. The panelists will be invited to explore how the burden is to be shared between the branches of government, who is responsible for the side-effects of complex reforms and who takes credit for success. The session will highlight the lessons learnt in the process of EU accession for the consideration of the states aspiring to join the EU. Speakers' interventions will be followed by discussion.

Moderator: Mr. Tobias Schumacher - Chair of European Neighborhood Policy Department at the College of Europe, Warsaw. Senior Research Fellow at the Center for International Studies at the University of Lisbon.

Speakers:

1. Ms. Lolita Čigāne – Chairperson of the European Affairs Committee of Parliament of Republic of Latvia
2. Senator Piotr Wach – Deputy Chairman of the Science, Education and Sport Committee, Member of the Foreign and EU Affairs Committee of the Senate of Poland
3. Ms. Irina Pruidze – First Deputy Chairperson of the European Integration Committee of the Parliament of Georgia
4. Mr. Mihran Hakobyan – Member of the Standing Committee on European Integration, Parliament of the Republic of Armenia
5. Mr. Nikola Rakočević, Member of the European Integration Committee of the Parliament of Montenegro (TBC)

15:30 – 15:45

COFFEE BREAK

15:45 – 17:15

Panel 3 – BEFORE AND AFTER INTEGRATION: MANAGING CITIZEN EXPECTATIONS and COUNTERING ANTI-WESTERN PROPAGANDA

The session will explore interaction between the legislative and the executive in the process of implementation of the EU driven reforms. Does the competition between

the two branches of power ensure speed and quality, or is it an obstacle to flawless implementation. The speakers will elaborate on the Parliament's role in advancing legislative reforms, ensuring compatibility of national legal environment with the EU Aquis and carrying out rigorous parliamentary oversight. The panelists will be invited to explore how the burden is to be shared between the branches of government, who is responsible for the side-effects of complex reforms and who takes credit for success. The session will highlight the lessons learnt in the process of EU accession for the consideration of the states aspiring to join the EU. Speakers' interventions will be followed by discussion.

Moderator: Damien McGuinness, Correspondent, BBC Berlin

Speakers:

1. Mr. Nenad Čanak – Chairman of European Integration Committee of the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia
2. Mr. Gediminas Kirkilas – Chairperson of the Committee on European Affairs of Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania, former Prime Minister of the Republic of Lithuania
3. Ms. Sophie Katsarava – Chairperson of Foreign Relations Committee, Parliament of Georgia
4. Mr. Borys Tarasyuk – Deputy Chair of the European Integration Committee of Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, Head of the National Delegation of Ukraine at the EuroNest Parliamentary Assembly
5. Ms. Tina Acketoft – Member of the Parliament of the Kingdom of Sweden
6. Mr. Vesel Memedi – Deputy Chairperson of the Committee on European Affairs of the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia

17:15 – 17:30

SUMMING UP

By Ms. Tamar Khulordava, Chairperson of the European Integration Committee, Parliament of Georgia

17:30 – 19:00

FREE TIME

19:00

Reception hosted by the Parliament of Georgia (for all participants)

Venue: Pre Function of the Grand Ball room; Hotel "Courtyard by Marriot" TBC

TUESDAY, 5 December 2017

09:30

MORNING COFFEE

10:00 – 11:30

SECOND DAY OPENING

Panel 4 – DEEPER ENGAGEMENT WITH THE EU AND AMONG THE EU PARTNERS– REALITIES, PROSPECTS AND MODALITIES

The Session will discuss various modalities of partnership with the EU enjoyed by the EFTA States, Candidate countries and the Eastern Partners. The prospects of deeper economic and trade relations, as well as cooperation in the fields of energy and security between the EU and its partners on one hand, and among the EU Partners,

on the other, will be explored. The speakers will also discuss the benefits and challenges of the two distinct approaches to advancing on the EU Integration path: 'one size fits all' and 'more for more'. The potential of deeper political and economic integration without EU membership will also be explored, including functional integration through gradual involvement in EU policies, sectoral integration and the enjoyment of four freedoms. Speakers' interventions will be followed by discussion.

Moderator: Mr. Victor Dolidze, State Minister on European and Euro-Atlantic Integration

Speakers:

1. Mr. Sergi Kapanadze – Deputy Chairman of the Parliament of Georgia
2. Mr. Marian Lupu – Co-President of the EuroNest Parliamentary Assembly, Head of the National Delegation of Moldova to EurNest PA
3. Mr. Kristian Ivanov Vigenin – Chairperson of the Committee on European Affairs and Oversight of the European Funds of National Assembly of the Republic of Bulgaria
4. Mr. Samed Ismayil Oglu Seyidov – Chairman of International Relations and Interparliamentary Relations of Milli Majlis of the Republic of Azerbaijan
5. Ms. Maria Soraya Rodriguez Ramos – Chair of the Joint Commission for the European Union, Congress of Deputies and Senate of Spain
6. Ms. Clare Moody – Member of the European Parliament, Member of the EU-Georgia Parliamentary Association Committee
7. Vano Chkhikvadze – National Expert

11:30 – 11:45

COFFEE BREAK

11:45 – 13.15

Panel 5 - THE FUTURE OF THE EU

With the 60th anniversary of the European cooperation, and against the backdrop of a number of challenges (Brexit, migrant and refugee crisis, the rise of right-wing populism, Russian anti-Western propaganda, security threats, global economic developments) future of the EU has been widely debated. The session will explore the future of Europe in the context of global development trends, the ability of the EU to adjust to new realities (boost of technologies, economic power shifts, etc.) and to maintain its leading role in setting global agenda. The panelist will also discuss the effects of different scenarios for EU's future on its Partners, as well as the potential of Partners to contribute to stronger Europe. Speakers' interventions will be followed by discussion.

Moderator: Mr. Dirk Toornstra – Former Senior Official of the European Parliament

Speakers:

1. H.E. Ambassador Janos Herman – Head of the EU Delegation to Georgia
2. Mr. Ojārs Ēriks Kalniņš – Chairman of Foreign affairs Committee of Latvijas Republikas Saeima
3. Ms. Keit Pentus-Rosimannus – Deputy Chair of Foreign Affairs Committee of Parliament of Estonia
4. Ms. Ana Gomes – Member of the European Parliament
5. Ms. Salome Zurabishvili – First Deputy Chair of the Diaspora and Caucasus Issues Committee

6. SCO – Kakha Gogolashvili

13.15 – 13.30

CONCLUDING REMARKS

Ms. Tamar Khulordava, Chairperson of the European Integration Committee,
Parliament of Georgia

13.30 – 14.30

LUNCH

14:30

Departure for the Hotel

THE CULTURAL PROGRAMME

15:30

Departure for Mtskheta Ancient Capital of Georgia

16:10

Arrival to Cross Monastery

16:10-16:40

Tour at the Monastery

16:40

Departure for Svetitskhoveli Cathedral

17:00-17:35

Tour at the Cathedral

17:35

Departure for the Chateau Mukhrani (Wine cellar)

17:50-19:00

Wine tasting at the Wine Cellar followed by dinner

19:00-21:00

**Dinner hosted by Ms. Tamar Khulordava, Chairperson of the Committee on EU
Integration of the Parliament of Georgia**

By invitations (only)