

FACTS AND FIGURES ABOUT EU-GEORGIA RELATIONS

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The European Union and Georgia enjoy a very close and positive relationship. The EU-Georgia Association Agreement entered into force in July 2016 and strives for political association and economic integration. The EU and Georgia have also entered into a Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (DCFTA), while Georgian citizens have been benefitting from visa-free travel to the Schengen area since 28 March 2017. The EU is Georgia's largest trading partner and provides over 350 million GEL (€120 million) to Georgia annually in grant assistance.

STRONGER ECONOMY

- ✓ In 2016, the EU was Georgia's **key trading partner**, with a 31% share of its total trade.
- ✓ The EU provides Georgian companies with funding, training, and export support to new markets through the EU4Business initiative. Since 2009, more than 2.1 billion GEL (€711 million) have been provided; 63,000 enterprises have been supported and **2,450 new jobs created in Georgia** as a result.
- ✓ EU support to agriculture is raising the income of Georgian farmers. **Over 1,500 farmer cooperatives have been created** with the EU's assistance, with figures showing a more than 20% increase in incomes and a doubling of employment levels. EU support has helped establish 59 Government consultation centres around the country, allowing over 250,000 farmers to become more efficient.

STRONGER CONNECTIVITY

- ✓ Georgia takes part in large regional programmes on **transport safety** and transport connectivity, environment, climate change and **green economy, energy security**, renewable energy and energy efficiency, as well as Cross-Border Cooperation, specifically participating in the sea-crossing Black Sea Programme aimed at reducing marine litter.
- ✓ The EU, together with the European Investment Bank, is helping upgrade Georgia's key transport route, the **East-West highway**, to enable more regional trade and passenger traffic.
- ✓ EU funding is contributing to **improving the air quality in Tbilisi** by bringing 143 new, environmentally friendly buses to the streets of the capital. The purchase of the buses was made possible thanks to a grant of over 18 million GEL (€7 million) from the E5P Fund, in which the EU is the biggest contributor.

STRONGER GOVERNANCE

- ✓ The EU is working hard to ensure that Georgians have proper access to justice. It has helped establish a Government Legal Aid Service, which has provided **free legal services** to over 90,000 people, represented over 5,000 juveniles in criminal proceedings, and given over 140,000 free legal consultations to a number of citizens unable to afford a lawyer otherwise.
- ✓ Various EU-funded training programmes for judges, prosecutors, prison and probation staff, police investigators, public defenders, and lawyers have increased their skills and efficiency, further ensuring that **Georgians' rights are effectively protected**.
- ✓ With EU support, the Georgian Government has established **44 Community Centres** in smaller towns and villages across the country. These centres ease life for the 90,000 Georgians living there by bringing 200 public and banking services, as well as free internet and libraries, directly to them.

STRONGER SOCIETY

- ✓ Visa liberalisation for Georgian citizens entered into force on 28 March 2017. According to Georgian authorities, more than **160,000 Georgian citizens have already travelled to the EU** without a visa.
- ✓ In the period 2015-2017, **1,700 students and academic staff from Georgia** have studied or taught in the EU as part of the Erasmus+ programme. More than 5,300 young people and youth workers are taking part in joint activities with their counterparts from the EU.
- ✓ Since Georgia joined **Horizon 2020** in 2016, the EU's leading programme for research and innovation, researchers and innovators from Georgia have been able to participate in the programme under the same conditions as their counterparts from EU Member States.

IN FIGURES

The EU's financial support for Georgia in 2017-2020 will be in the range of
1.1 – 1.4
billion GEL (€371 – €453 million)

EU support has been instrumental in the adoption of over
7,000
European standards in the areas of health, safety, and environmental protection.

EU IS COMMITTED TO IMPROVING SECURITY IN GEORGIA

Immediately in the wake of the August 2008 hostilities, the EU deployed the EU Monitoring Mission (EUMM) to Georgia. Ever since its deployment, the mission has been patrolling day and night, particularly in the areas adjacent to the Administrative Boundary Lines with Abkhazia and South Ossetia. EUMM has around 200 monitors from various EU Member States working on the ground.

GEORGIA IS CONTRIBUTING TO EU PEACEKEEPING

A Framework Agreement on Georgia's participation in the EU's Common Security and Defence Policy operations entered into force in March 2014, and Georgia has since made remarkable contributions to several operations. Its biggest contribution so far was a company of around 156 staff deployed to the EUFOR RCA operation in the Central African Republic. Currently Georgia is involved in the EU Military Training Mission in the Central African Republic and the EU Training Mission in Mali.

EU SUPPORT FOR CONFLICT RESOLUTION

The EU continues to support Georgia's efforts to overcome the consequences of internal conflicts in Georgia's breakaway regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia dating back to the early 1990s. It also assists Georgia in achieving more stability in the region following the outbreak of hostilities in August 2008. The EU remains firmly committed to its policy of supporting Georgia's territorial integrity within its internationally-recognised borders as well as engagement with the breakaway regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia in support of longer-term conflict resolution. The EU appointed in July 2003 an EU Special Representative for the South Caucasus.

Georgia is also benefitting from
140
million GEL (€46 million) of EU macro-financial assistance.