



*Co-funded by the Internal Security Fund of the European Union*

# **LET4CAP**

## **Law Enforcement Training for Capacity Building**

### **GEORGIA**

### **Downloadable Country Booklet**

#### **DL. 2.5**

*(Version 1.2)*

Dissemination level: PU

Let4Cap

Grant Contract no.: HOME/ 2015/ISFP/AG/LETX/8753

Start date: 01/11/2016

Duration: 33 months

Dissemination Level	
PU: Public	X
PP: Restricted to other programme participants (including the Commission)	
RE: Restricted to a group specified by the consortium (including the Commission)	

#### Revision history

Rev.	Date	Author	Notes
1.0	10/03/2018	SSSA	Overall structure and first draft
1.1	28/03/2018	SSSA	Second version after internal feedback among SSSA staff
1.2	14/04/2018	SSSA	Final version version before feedback from partners

LET4CAP\_WorkpackageNumber 2 Deliverable\_2.5 VER1.2

WorkpackageNumber	2
Deliverable	Deliverable 2.5 Downloadable country booklets
VER	V.1.2

# **GEORGIA**

## **Country Information Package**

This Country Information Package has been prepared by Eric REPETTO, under the scientific supervision of Professor Andrea de GUTTRY and Dr. Annalisa CRETA.  
Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna, Pisa, Italy  
[www.santannapisa.it](http://www.santannapisa.it)

LET4CAP, co-funded by the Internal Security Fund of the European Union, aims to contribute to more *consistent* and *efficient* assistance in law enforcement capacity building to third countries. The Project consists in the design and provision of training interventions drawn on the experience of the partners and fine-tuned after a piloting and consolidation phase.

© 2018 by LET4CAP  
**All rights reserved.**

## Table of contents

### **1. Country Profile**

- 1.1 Country in Brief
- 1.2 Modern and Contemporary History of Georgia
- 1.3 Geography
- 1.4 Territorial and Administrative Units
- 1.5 Population
- 1.6 Ethnic Groups, Languages, Religion
- 1.7 Health
- 1.8 Education and Literacy
- 1.9 Country Economy

### **2. Political and Security Context**

- 2.1 The Constitution of Georgia
- 2.2 Elections
- 2.3 Political Parties
- 2.4 Key Political Leaders
- 2.5 Media Landscape and Civil Society
- 2.6 Security Sector

### **3. Law Enforcement Structures and Actors**

- 3.1 The Police
- 3.2 Security Actors
- 3.3 The Judiciary

### **4. Migrations and Human Rights issues**

- 4.1 Internal and International Migration
- 4.2 Human Rights Situation

### **5. The UN and Georgia**

### **6. The EU - Georgia Relations**

- 6.1 An Important Partner
- 6.2 EU support and cooperation
- 6.3 EUMM Georgia

### **7. Other regional organisations and Georgia**

### **8. Travel Advice & Other Practical Info**

- 8.1 Local Customs Cultural Awareness
- 8.2 Medical Travel Recommendations for Georgia
- 8.3 Other Travel Info
- 8.4 Radio Transmissions

### **9. Useful contacts**

#### **Sources**

#### **Bibliography**

#### **Annex - Council Joint Action 2008/736/CFSP**

#### **Annex - EU Press Release 12453/08 (Presse 236), supporting and calling for the respect of the Six-Point Ceasefire Agreement**

# **1. Country Profile**

## 1.1 Country in Brief



Source: CIA World Factbook

**Formal Name:** Georgia

**Previous formal names:** Georgian Socialist Soviet Republic

**Population:** 3.98 millions (including Abkhazia and South Ossetia)

**Term for Citizens:** Georgians

**Area (sq km):** 69,700

**Capital City:** Tbilisi

**Independence:** 9 April 1991, from the USSR.

## 1.2 Modern and Contemporary History of Georgia

### *Early and Modern History*

Present-day Georgia was once split between the kingdoms of Colchis, in the west, and Iberia, in the East. After the arrival of the Romans, the region fell under their influence and in 337 AD Christianity was declared state religion by the political entities of the area, while the Georgian Christian Church proclaimed its independence from Antiochia. Medieval Georgia knew a golden age between the XI and XIII centuries under the Bagration dynasty, before being devastated by a Mongol invasion in 1236. In the years 1386-1403, Tamerlane the Great raided Georgia eight times, devastating irrigation canals and laying waste to the country's entire agriculture system. People fled to the mountains for safe harbour. Continuous invasions compelled the country to split into separate parts. Economic recession and rivalries between feudal lords resulted in the division of Georgia into three separate kingdoms: Kakheti, Kartli and Imereti. A long period of political weakness began, which first saw Persia and the Ottoman Empire competing for influence over the area and then the Russian Empire definitively annexing the region in the XIX century. Georgia shortly regained independence in the aftermath of the Bolshevik Revolution in Russia, in 1918, before being invaded by the troops of the Red Army in 1921 and incorporated into the USSR. Place of birth of the Soviet leader Stalin, Georgia was at first part of the Transcaucasian Socialist Federative Soviet Republic, which united Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan, and in 1956 hosted the most brutal protests against Nikita Khrushchev's de-Stalinisation attempt. The Transcaucasian Republic was dissolved in 1936, but Georgia remained part of the USSR until 1991.

### *Independent Georgia*

Georgia was one of the first Soviet republics to take steps towards independence. This process was accelerated by the events of 9 April 1989, when Soviet Soldiers crushed a rally in Tbilisi, killing 19 protesters. Elections held on 28 October 1990 put an end to Soviet Georgia, with the victory of The Round Table - Free Georgia party, headed by former dissident Zviad Gamsakhurdia. In the same months growing tensions and violence between Georgians and South Ossetians marked the beginning of one of the young country's most complex challenges. On 31 March 1991, a referendum on the restoration of the country's independence was overwhelmingly approved; Georgia's Declaration of Independence was thus adopted at a session of the Supreme Council on 9 April 1991. On 26 May 1991, the first presidential elections were held. Gamsakhurdia won 87% of the vote and became the first president of independent Georgia. Despite his landslide victory, however, Gamsakhurdia failed to consolidate his rule, which mainly rested on his ability to mobilise masses using his charisma.

The newly independent country soon found itself caught into spiralling violence as protests were held against Gamsakhurdia. By the end of December 1991, heavy clashes had erupted in Tbilisi. On 6 January 1992 Gamsakhurdia and his supporters were expelled from Georgia. For the following two months the country was governed by a so-called "Military Council", whose members were ex-Prime Minister Tengiz Sigua, ex-Minister of Defence Tengiz Kitovani and Jaba Ioseliani, head of the Mkhedrioni militia.

In March 1992, Eduard Shevardnadze, former head of the Georgian communist party and USSR foreign minister, arrived in Georgia from Moscow in order to head up the Military Council. Additional conflicts arose in the Autonomous Republic of Abkhazia and the Autonomous Region of Southern Ossetia, and by September 1993 Georgian troops had been driven out of Abkhazia. Abkhaz separatists signed a ceasefire with Georgia in 1994, which provided for the deployment of a Russian peace-keeping mission in the region. Meanwhile, in October 1992 Shevardnadze was elected chairman of Parliament and led the country from that post, with the office of president abolished. Insurrections in the western provinces were staged by Gamsakhurdia supporters in October 1993, but were suppressed after Georgia agreed to join the Community of Independent States (CIS) and Russia sent military help to the country.

### *Shevardnadze's Georgia*

During the first three years of his rule, Shevardnadze tried to get rid of the competing gangs of criminals that existed in the country and had originally supported his return. A new currency, the Lari, was introduced. A new constitution was adopted, re-introducing the post of president as head of the executive. No threshold for parliamentary election resulted in a very fractioned legislative body, favouring the government. However, after the creation of the Citizens' Union of Georgia (CUG) in 1993, which was designed to serve as Shevardnadze's party of power, the introduction of an electoral threshold resulted in a stable majority for the CUG. This threshold was first introduced in 1995; in the same year Shevardnadze won the presidential elections.

Notwithstanding quite impressive achievements in terms of ending violence and introducing the formal requisites of democratic statehood, and despite massive international assistance, Shevardnadze ultimately did not succeed in stable governance. The only continuous feature was clear dominance by the executive, while, as already seen, the shape of the parliament was adapted to varying needs. Pluralism was mainly confined to intra-elite competition within the ruling party, which was composed of former Soviet bureaucrats and a group of young reformers.

The 2000 presidential elections were again won by Shevardnadze, but his popularity consistently declined in the following years. The distribution of official fiefdoms among the different factions of the elite severely hampered economic growth and gave rise to popular unrest. Confronted with a decline in its authority, the ruling party adopted authoritarian measures, a move that provoked an internal split. These years were also marred by renewed tensions with Abkhaz separatists, which led to a diplomatic stand-off between Georgia and Russia, the latter accusing Georgia of harbouring Chechen rebels in its territory. Tensions diminished after Georgia agreed to mount antiterrorism operations against Chechen guerilla, with forces trained by US special forces. The internal struggle for power eventually came to an end with the Rose Revolution.



Parliamentary elections took place on 2 November 2003 and the Central Election Commission awarded victory to the pro-government bloc For New Georgia, despite claims of widespread falsifications. On 4 November 2003 peaceful protesters took to the streets of Tbilisi demanding that parliamentary elections be held anew. The protests were led by Zurab Zhvania, Mikheil Saakashvili and Nino Burjanadze, leaders of the reformers' faction. On 22 November, during the first sitting of the new parliament, the crisis reached its climax. Protesters in Freedom Square were addressed by Saakashvili, Burjanadze and Zhvania from the balcony of the City Hall, demanding that President Shevardnadze resign and new elections be held. Despite the opposition, the country's leaders decided to swear in the new parliament, prompting a sudden and unexpected response as protesters burst into the State Chancellery and the Parliament, occupying them. On 23 November at the Krtsanisi Government Residence, in the presence of Saakashvili, Zhvania and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Russia Igor Ivanov, Eduard Shevardnadze officially announced his resignation. In accordance with Georgia's Constitution, Parliament Speaker Nino Burjanadze temporarily took over as president.

#### *Saakashvili's Georgia*

On 4 January 2004 a presidential election was held in which Mikheil Saakashvili won 97% of votes. On February 17, 2004, after entering amendments in the Constitution of Georgia, Zurab Zhvania became the prime minister and head of the executive, while the role of presidency was strengthened. The parliamentary elections of 28 March 2004 saw a decisive victory of the new United National Movement, which seized more than two-thirds of the seats. Control over the executive and legislative branch of the government made implementing a far-reaching structural reform agenda possible. As a result, the government achieved good results in terms of curbing corruption, streamlining an inefficient administration, improving tax collection and providing public goods for an economy that underwent a significant upsurge. Despite these results, critics of the new elite pointed to serious deficits and setbacks in terms of institutionalising checks and balances. This concerned the parliament, the judiciary's independence and the media.

Saakashvili's first years were marred by constant tensions with the autonomous Georgian regions, which eventually deflagrated into full-scale war. Between March and May 2004 a row between Georgia and the leadership of the semi-autonomous region of Ajaria led to the imposition of sanctions on the region and the closure of the border by Georgia. Ajaria's leader Aslan Abashidze finally fled after an ultimatum by Saakashvili to disarm his forces and comply with Georgian constitution. In June tensions with South Ossetia increased after Georgia decided to beef up its anti-smuggling operation in the region. After some clashes, a further escalation took place in 2006, after South Ossetians voted in favour of independence in an unrecognised referendum. Meanwhile, Georgia seized control of Abkhazia's Kodori Gorge from local warlord Emzar Kvitsiani and announced its plans to move the pro-Tbilisi government-in-

exile of Abkhazia into the area; Abkhazia broke off peace talks in response. A further row erupted with Russia after the sabotage of gas pipelines on the Russian side of the border, which the Georgian government blamed on Russia. Then, in September and October Russian army officers were detained on spying charges; in response, Russia imposed sanctions, cut transport links and expelled hundreds of Georgians.

In the last months of 2007 a significant wave of protests hit the Saakashvili presidency after the declarations of former defence minister Irakli Okruashvili, who accused Saakashvili of corruption and plotting a murder. A state of emergency was declared after clashes between riot police and protesters. Saakashvili, however, was re-elected in 2008, while the parliamentary elections in that same year gave an overwhelming majority to his party, prompting accusations of election-rigging. At the same time, Russia stepped up its ties with Abkhazia and South Ossetia, sending 300 unarmed military personnel to Abkhazia. Georgia responded by accusing Russia of military interventionism and of planning to annex the two regions. In June Abkhazia cut all ties with the Georgian government blaming a number of blasts in the region on its leaders, something which Georgia denied. Eventually, in August, after a series of clashes with South Ossetian rebels Georgia tried to retake South Ossetia by force; the attempt gave Russia a chance of intervening in the conflict, which led to a five-day war in which Russian troops expelled the Georgian military from all disputed territory and penetrated further into Georgian territory. A French-brokered ceasefire, the six-point Agreement, later endorsed by the European Union, ended the hostilities. The six points were: "1. Not to resort to force; 2. To end hostilities definitively; 3. To provide free access for humanitarian aid; 4. Georgian military forces will have to withdraw to their usual bases; 5. Russian military forces will have to withdraw to the lines held prior to the outbreak of hostilities. Pending an international mechanism, Russian peace-keeping forces will implement additional security measures; 6. Opening of international talks on the security and stability arrangements in Abkhazia and South Ossetia." Russia, however, recognised the independence of the breakaway provinces and announced it would maintain a military presence in them, drawing criticism from Georgia and the West. Russia also took formal control of the regions' frontiers and vetoed the prosecution of the UN observation mission of the Abkhazia-Georgia border. Only in 2010 Russia and Georgia restored direct air connections between each other.

From 2008 on the popularity of the government continued to decline also due to its violent response to demonstrations, violence that seriously undermined Saakashvili's democratic credentials. Growing authoritarian tendencies and alleged corruption, as well as the inability of the ruling elite to translate dynamic economic growth into tangibly improved living standards for the majority of citizens, gave rise to a series of popular protests while increasing political polarisation. The significant slowdown of economic growth, caused not only by the global financial crisis, but rather by the serious economic deterioration in the aftermath of the war against Russia, further undermined stability. In 2009 an alleged mutiny was quelled by Georgian authorities, who blamed Russia for attempting a coup d'état. In October 2010 a new constitutional reform was

approved, which diminished the power of the presidency to the advantage of the prime minister and the Parliament. However, protests against Saakashvili's alleged authoritarianism were fuelled again when in October 2011 billionaire Bidzina Ivanishvili announced the formation of the Georgian Dream (GD) party to run in 2012 elections: only a week later Ivanishvili's citizenship was rescinded, on grounds that he also had Russian citizenship and had just obtained a French passport. Another scandal hit the government in September 2012, when allegations of abuse of prisoners were confirmed and the interior minister and prisons chief were sacked.

#### *The rule of Georgian Dream*

Billionaire philanthropist Bidzina Ivanishvili's unexpected entry into politics brought the divided opposition together under his coalition. GD won a majority of seats in the October 2012 parliamentary elections and removed UNM from power. Conceding defeat, Saakashvili named Ivanishvili as prime minister and allowed Georgian Dream to create a new government. Initially this led for one year to cohabitation with Saakashvili, during which tensions prevailed. Several former ministers and prominent UNM leaders were arrested or summoned to court in an attempt to hold them responsible for numerous human rights violations. However, how the government coped with this legacy caused international concern and accusations of selectively applying justice. One of the most blatant cases was the process to former prime minister Vano Merabishvili, charged with corruption and then condemned to five years in prison in 2014. The presidential elections on 27 October 2013, despite some irregularities in the vote count and isolated incidents of political violence, were considered free and fair and resulted in a decisive victory for the GD candidate, Giorgi Margvelashvili, with over 62% of votes. After the presidential elections Ivanishvili resigned from his position as prime minister, thus paving the way for his successor Irakli Garibashvili. Municipal elections in July 2014 definitively marked the political dominance of Georgian Dream. Meanwhile, Saakashvili left Georgia and was later charged with organising the assault of a political opponent in 2005. He was named governor of Odessa by the Ukrainian government in 2015, declaring he would one day return to Georgia; his Georgian citizenship was later rescinded after he obtained Ukrainian citizenship. Despite these issues, for the first time in Georgian history the defeated faction was able to survive and act as a parliamentary opposition. It must be noted, however, that in July 2014 the main opposition leader, Giorgi Ugulava, was detained

on money laundering charges, which his supporters claimed were politically motivated.

In June 2014 Georgia concluded the Association Agreement and instituted the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area with the EU, strengthening its relationship with the West, while progressively becoming closer to NATO remains one of its main foreign policy goals. This was also seen as a guarantee against influence of Russia, which in 2014 signed a partnership agreement with Abkhazia and in 2015 an "alliance and integration" treaty with South Ossetia. A further crisis briefly erupted in August 2015, as Russian forces pushed the South Ossetian border 1.5 km south, threatening the main Georgian route to the sea.

In 2013 also went into effect the 2010 constitutional changes, which weakened the office of the President. Garibashvili was the first to enjoy the increased powers of the Prime Minister, but tensions quickly rose between him and Margvelashvili, who, although having been the GD presidential candidate, is not affiliated to any political party. A considerable blow to GD was the sacking by Garibashvili of pro-Western defence minister Irakli Alasania: two other ministers resigned and the Free Democrats abandoned the ruling coalition in protest. Moreover, the public's appraisal of the GD coalition's performance decreased in 2014, primarily due to a lack of socio-economic improvements. The year 2013 turned out to be a transition period, with weak economic activity, slower private investment, weak credit growth and budget underspending. There has also been little improvement in tackling unemployment. Falling approval ratings and tensions with the president eventually led Garibashvili to resign in 2015 from the position of prime minister, to the advantage of Giorgi Kvirikashvili, former foreign minister. Kvirikashvili still leads the government, supported by a consistent majority (enough to implement constitutional changes) in Parliament after the 2016 elections. The Parliament was thus able to push further for a parliamentarisation of the political system, adopting a new constitution in October 2017, but deferring until 2024 the introduction of a fully proportional electoral system and ensuring that from 2024 on mandates won by political parties that fail to reach the election threshold be assigned to the winning party. Under the new rules, electoral blocs will no longer be allowed from 2020, and the president will no longer be elected by direct popular vote after 2018. Kvirikashvili's mandate has been marred as well by tensions with South Ossetia, which in April 2017 held a presidential election and a referendum on changing its name to the State of Alania, as part of a plan to join the Russian Federation.

## 1.3 Geography

*Location:* Georgia is located in South-Western Asia, slightly extending into Europe north of the Caucasus. It is bordered by Russia to the North, Azerbaijan to the South-East, Armenia to the South, Turkey to the South-West, and the Black Sea to the West.

*Area:* Georgia's total area is approximately 69,700 square kilometres of landmass; approximately 12,560 of them, however, fall into the breakaway republics of Abkhazia and South Ossetia and are not controlled by Georgia.

*Land Boundaries:* Georgia is bordered by Armenia (219 km), Azerbaijan (428 km), Russia (894 km) and Turkey (273 km). The total length of its borders is 1,814km.

*Length of Coastline:* Georgia's coastline totals 310 kilometres on the Black Sea.

*Maritime Claims:* Georgia's territorial sea extends 12 nautical miles in the Black Sea. Its Exclusive Economic Zone extends for 200 nautical miles.

*Topography:* Most of Georgia's territory consists of hills and mountain ranges; the main ones are the Great Caucasus Mountains in the north and the Lesser Caucasus Mountains in the south. The Kolkhet's Dablobi (Kolkhida Lowland) opens to the Black Sea in the west, and the Mtkvari River Basin in the east. Fertile soils can be found in the river valley flood plains and foothills of the Kolkhida Lowland.

*Natural Resources:* Georgia's main natural resources are timber, hydro-power, manganese deposits, iron ore, copper, minor coal and oil deposits, tea and citrus.

*Land Use:* Most of Georgia's territory consists of forests (39.4%) and arable land (35.5%); permanent crops occupy around 1.5% of the land, permanent pasture 27.9%.

*Environmental Factors:* Georgia's most important environmental problems are the often inadequate supply of potable water and the air, soil and water pollution. Earthquakes are the most common natural threat.

## 1.4 Territorial and Administrative Units

Georgia is not a federal republic, but hosts two autonomous republics: Abkhazia and Ajaria. The rest of the country is divided into 9 regions (“mkharebi”, singular - “mkhare”) and one city (“kalaki”), Tbilisi. The breakaway republic of South Ossetia is composed of the northern part of Shida Kartli, eastern parts of the Imereti region and Racha-Lechkhumi and Kvemo Svaneti, and a part of western Mtskheta-Mtianeti. Abkhazia and South Ossetia are breakaway regions with very limited international recognition, confined to Russia, Nicaragua, Venezuela and Nauru. Most States regard them as part of Georgia, but government’s control over them is currently absent.

*List of Georgian administrative units:*

- Autonomous Republic of Abkhazia (Ap'khazet'is Avtonomiuri Respublika)
- Autonomous Republic of Ajaria (Acharis Avtonomiuri Respublika)
- Guria
- Imereti
- Kakheti
- Kvemo Kartli
- Mtskheta Mtianeti
- Racha-Lechkhumi and Kvemo Svaneti
- Samegrelo and Zemo Svaneti
- Samtskhe-Javakheti
- Shida Kartli
- Tbilisi



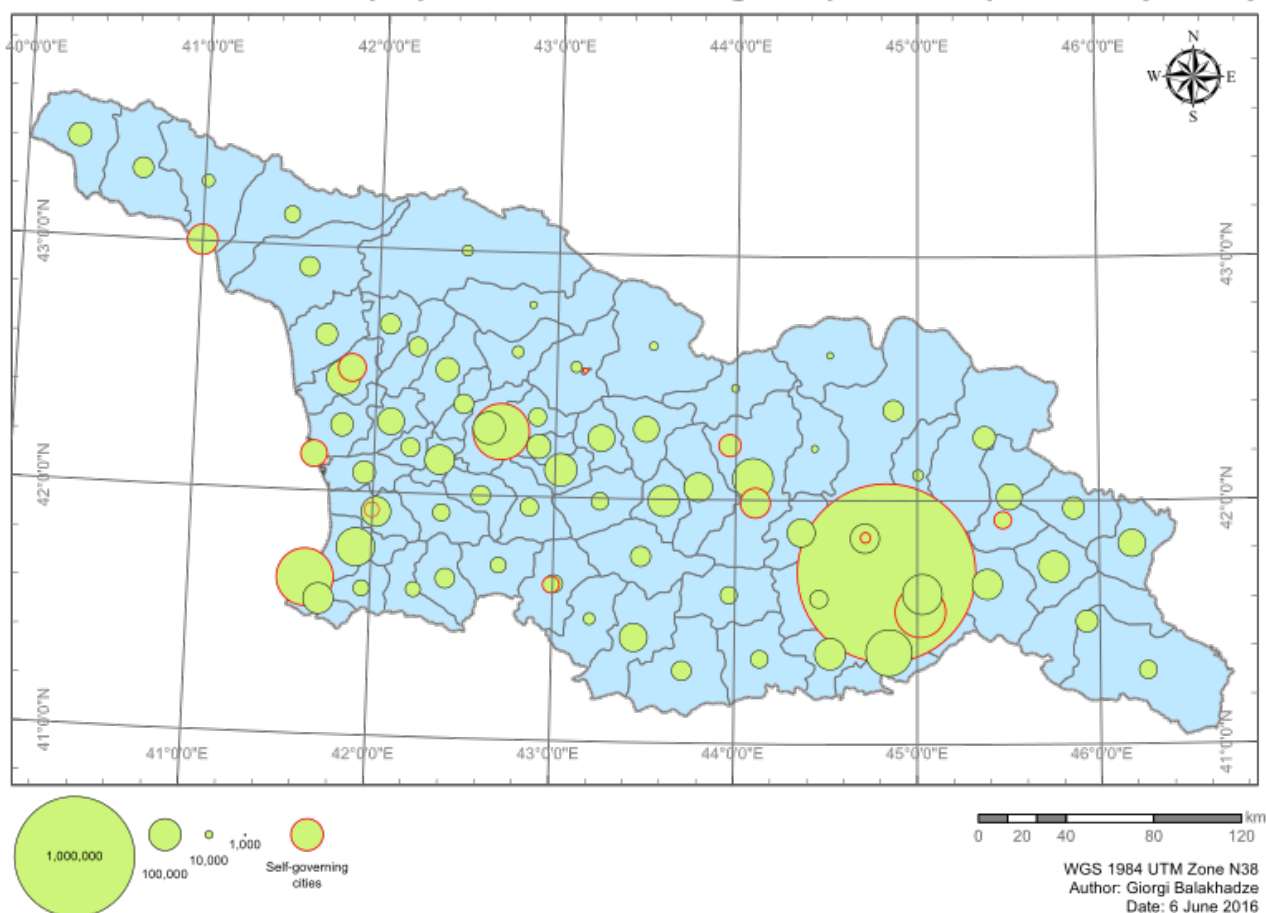
Source: Nations Online Project

## 1.5 Population

According to 2017 estimates, Georgia has a population of 3,718,200 (excluding Abkhazia and South Ossetia, referred to as the “occupied territories”), of which 2,128,600 live in urban areas. The population is not evenly distributed on the territory: most Georgians reside in the central valley, in particular in the areas around Tbilisi. Other settlements are located on the Western coast,

Bat’umi being the most relevant. The country has a slight population growth of 0.16% and life expectancy at birth is 78.1 years for females and 70.9 years for males. The birth rate is 15.2 births/1,000 population, and the death rate is 13.7/1,000 population. The overall fertility rate is 1.47 per woman. The infant mortality rate is 0.9 deaths/1,000 live births.

### Distribution of the population of Georgia by municipalities (2014)



Source: Wikimedia



## 1.6 Ethnic Groups, Languages, Religion

### *Ethnic Groups*

According to 2014 estimates, Georgians make up 86.8% of the population of Georgia proper. Other relevant minorities are Azeris (6.3%) and Armenians (4.5%), while there is also a presence of Russians, Ossetians, Yazidis, Ukrainians, Kists and Greeks. However, Abkhaz number 122,175 in Abkhazia, making them the ethnic majority (50.8%) after the 1992-1993 clashes and an alleged policy of ethnic cleansing. A similar situation is present in South Ossetia.

Georgians (also called Kartvelians) are a native ethnic group descending from the old kingdoms of Colchis and Iberia. Proto-Georgians had inhabited Southern Caucasus and Northern Anatolia since the Neolithic period. Abkhaz resided in the Northern Caucasus and are closely related to Circassians. Ossetians live on both sides of the Georgian-Russian border and are descendants of the Alans, the last remnants of the Sarmatian tribes. They are related to the Eastern Iranian populations.

### *Languages*

The vast majority of people in Georgia speak Georgian (87.6%). Georgian is the official language and originated in the East of the country, spreading west during the Middle Ages. It comprises

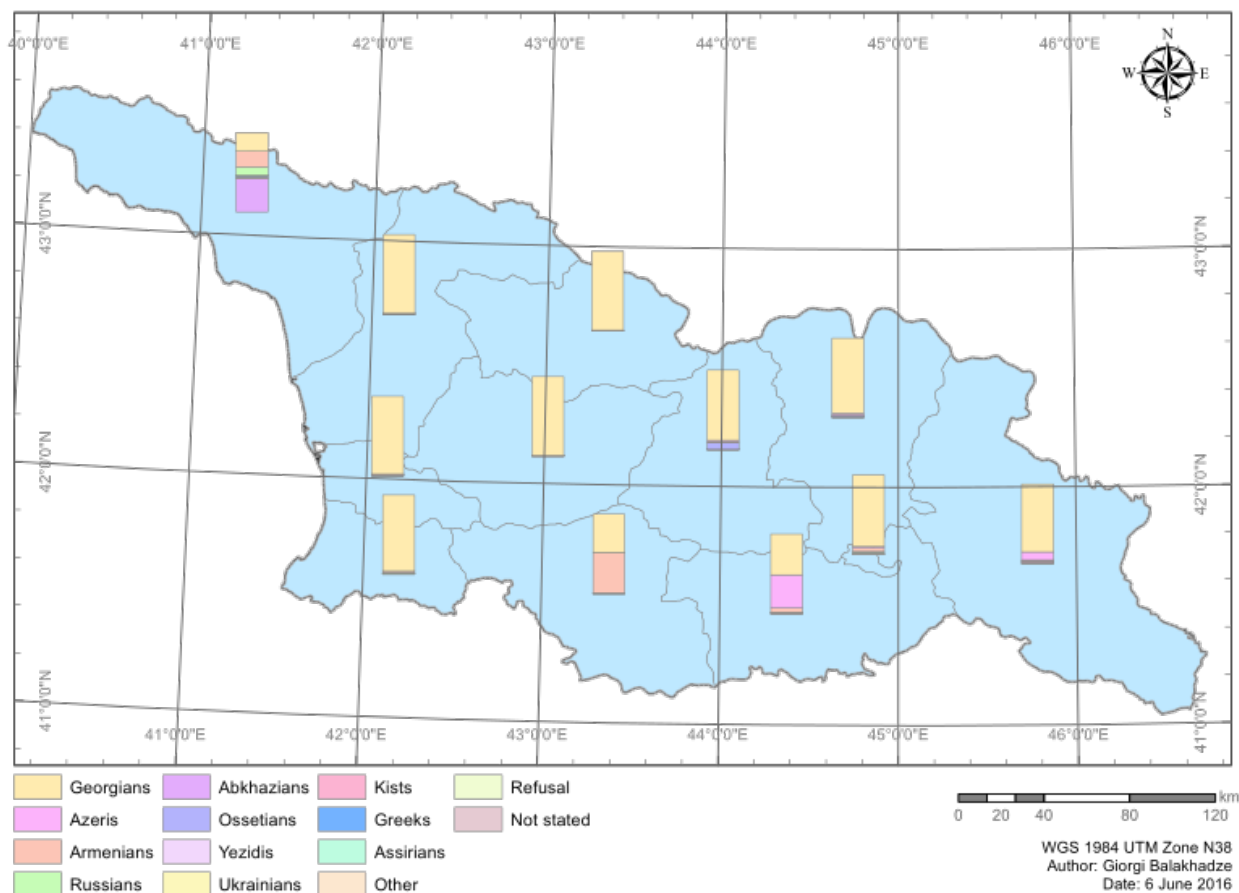
several dialects belonging to the Kartvelian language family, but official Georgian is the primary language independently from the each individual's provenance. The language is written in Mkhedruli alphabet, consisting of 33 letters (28 consonants and 5 vowels). Russian is widely spoken due to the extensive Russian domination over the region, but only 1.2% are primary speakers, behind Azeris (6.2%) and Armenians (3.9%).

The linguistic situation is very different in the two breakaway republics, where Abkhaz and Ossetian languages prevail. The former is part of the very isolated North-west Caucasian language family, while the second derives from the Eastern Iranian language family. In both regions Russian is widely spoken.

### *Religion*

The predominant religion in Georgia, practised by most the population, is Christian Orthodoxy (83.4%). Most of the adherents belong to the Georgian Autocephal Orthodox Church. A consistent minority of Muslims (10.7%) is present in the Ajaria Autonomous Republic, a vestige of Ottoman domination now generally confined to rural areas, after Soviet rule and national Orthodox assimilation. Other minorities are Armenian Apostolic, Catholic and Jews.

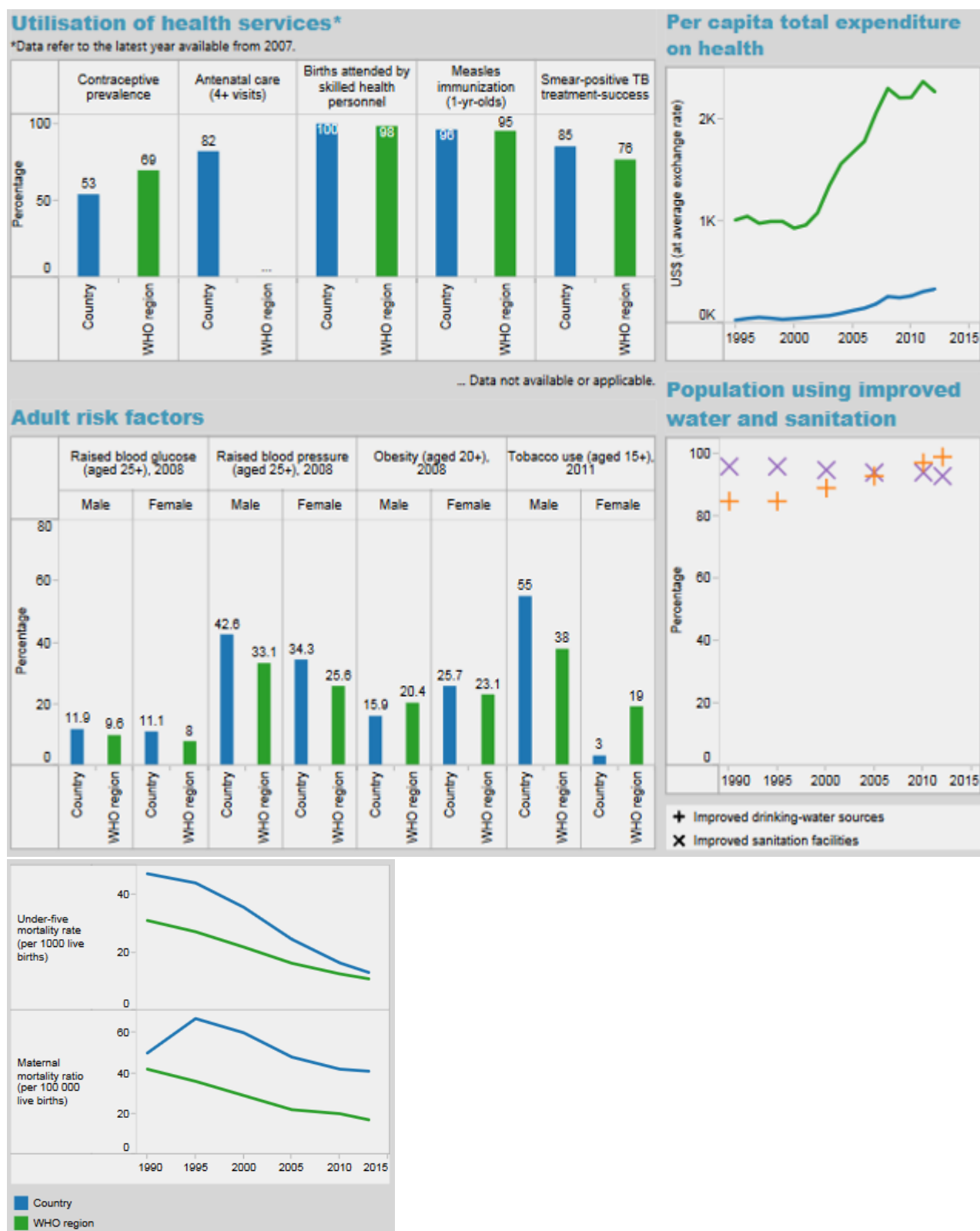
Ethnic composition of the regions of Georgia (2014)



Source: Wikimedia

## 1.7 Health

The Georgian government's expenditure on health amounted in 2014 to 7.4% of GDP, but in this amount are included vouchers for private sanitation facilities. Georgia has 26,600 physicians and 13,800 hospital beds. According to UN figures, the whole population has access to improved drinking water resources and 86.3% to improved sanitation facilities.

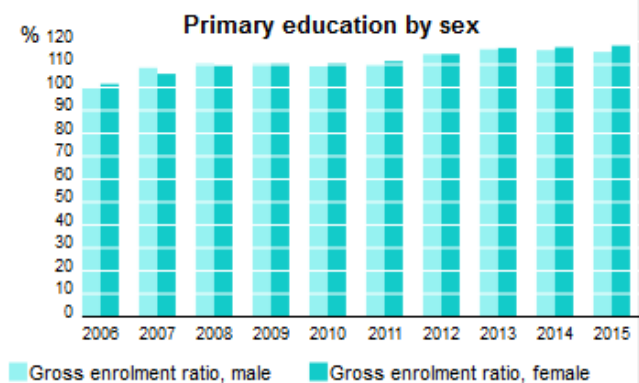


Source: WHO

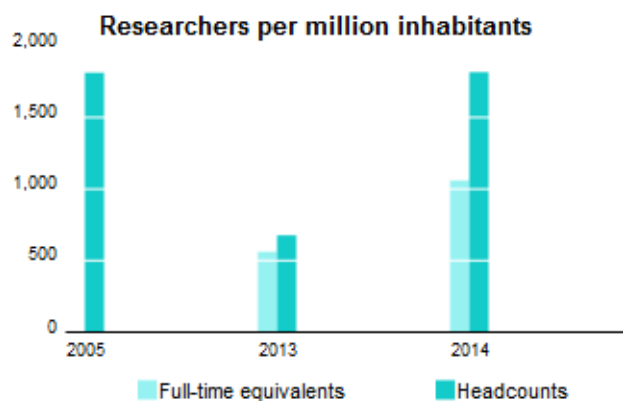
## 1.8 Education and Literacy

According to UNESCO figures, virtually all Georgian adults and youth are literate. Practically all Georgians attended primary and secondary school. The government expenditure on education amounts to around 2% of the GDP.

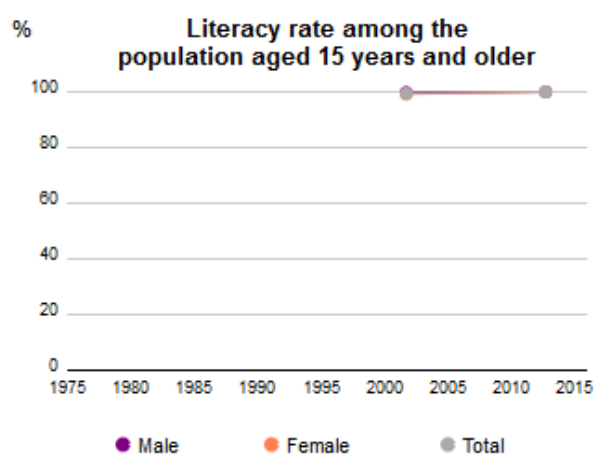
### EDUCATION



### SCIENCE



### LITERACY



Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics



## 1.9 Country Economy

Georgia was a somewhat relevant industrial and textile centre in the USSR. Characterised by a particularly strong dichotomy between official and shadow economy, its growth rates were among the lowest in the Union, but car and house ownership rates were relatively high, and education rates among the highest. After independence in April 1991, the Georgian government put into effect a policy of liberalisation, but, as in most post-Soviet countries, violence and resistance to reform soon stalled many efforts and led to some back-tracking, with widespread corruption. The situation slowly improved after the ousting of Shevardnadze, with a new leadership initially praised for its modernisation efforts. Thus, over the past decade Georgia's economy has grown at an average annual rate of 5%, in spite of numerous shocks, including the global financial crisis of 2007–08, the conflict with Russia in 2008, and the regional headwinds of 2014. Real GDP grew by 4.9% in the first half of 2017, and economic growth is projected to increase to an average rate of 4.5% a year over the medium term. It currently amounts to 14.3 billion US\$, with a GDP per capita of 3,864 US\$. The fiscal deficit is expected to remain at 4.1% of GDP. In 2014 services accounted for 66.9% of the economy, ahead of the industry sector (24%) and agriculture (9.1%).

Poverty has declined from 35% in 2006 to a projected 20.9% by 2019. Inequality – which was higher in Georgia than in most other former Soviet states – also declined during the same period, indicating that prosperity was increasingly shared, but at a pace often deemed too slow by sectors of society. Although incomes have increased, the economy has not managed to expand the supply of jobs and reduce unemployment. The pace of poverty reduction might continue to slow and eventually stall if the recent rate of private sector employment growth were to decline.

GDP (current US\$)



Poverty headcount ratio at national poverty lines (% of population)



GDP per capita (current US\$)



Source: World Bank

## **2. Political and Security Context**

## 2.1 The Constitution of Georgia

Georgia adopted a new constitution in 1995. Until that time, the 1921 pre-Soviet-era constitution had been in force. The highest legislative unit of the Georgian government is the unicameral Sakartvelos Parlamenti. The parliament has 150 seats, 77 of which are assigned through a proportional method and the others in uninominal seats, with majority rule. However, a clear legal framework for the second turn is not present. The constitution provides for other two regional parliaments, in the autonomous republics of Abkhazia and Ajaria. Georgia is a semi-presidential republic, so executive power is split between the president and the prime minister, with recurrent constitutional amendments shifting the balance of power between the two. The president, elected by direct popular vote in a two-round election for a five-year term, is the head of state. The president appoints the prime minister upon parliamentary nomination, is commander-in-chief of all military forces, may dismiss parliament under certain circumstances and represents Georgia in international relations, but all of his acts have to be counter-signed by the prime minister. The prime minister is

the head of the government, leading the cabinet of ministers. He and the cabinet coordinate the day-to-day administration of the government and may introduce legislation to the parliament.

The early period of Georgian independence was marked by violence and the presence of an unconstitutional body, the Military Council, then turned by Shevardnadze into the State Security Council. It was the Council, which reinstated the 1921 constitution, which provided for a parliament but not for a directly elected president. This role was reintroduced in the 1995 constitution. The presidency remained stronger than the other state powers under both Shevardnadze and Saakashvili, the latter promoting constitutional amendments introducing the figure of the prime minister and strengthening the power of the president to dismiss the parliament. Then, in 2010 further amendments weakened the presidency in favour of the prime minister and the parliament, leading to the current situation. The balance between the two roles remains delicate, as the tensions between Margvelashvili and Garibashvili have proved.

## 2.2 Elections

### *Presidential Elections, 27 October 2013*

The presidential election put an end to one year of cohabitation between president Saakashvili and Prime Minister Ivanishvili, marking the victory of Georgian Dream candidate Margvelashvili for the presidency. It must be noted that Georgian law requires the president not to be formally affiliated to any political party. The election marked a welcome shift from tense contests, such as the previous year's parliamentary election. The OSCE/ODIHR Election Observation Mission praised the overall fairness and democratic character of the election, but pointed out that much room is still present for improvement.

Media outlets were generally free and broadcast a variety of political positions, although with a certain degree of polarisation. Verbal violence was not present in rallies and TV debates, allowing for a peaceful election environment; this was partly due to the fact that the election was relatively little dynamic and focused on door-to-door activities. Some allegations of political pressure against UNM representatives and of misuse of public funds were present and the framework for the management of campaign funds and its implementation are rather formalistic and not substantial, but this did not overall jeopardise the conduct of elections. The Mission complained that some provisions of the Electoral Code did not provide a clear framework for electoral activities. However, the work of the Central Electoral Commission was excellent, and the observers could observe widespread trust in the activities of the Commission and in the process of formation of voter lists. Similarly, no significant irregularities were found at polling stations and district electoral commissions, although overcrowding and presence of unauthorised party observers were an issue. The effort of civil society was key to improve the transparency of the process.

### *Parliamentary Elections, 8 and 30 October 2016*

The parliamentary elections in 2016 were generally considered free and democratic, but with some important critiques. They were the first elections held after the constitutional reform, in a context of public discontent with the political establishment. This led to a polarisation of the political debate between the two main parties and to more violent tones throughout the campaign.

Media outlets were once more deemed free but too much polarised, although many turned to a more balanced approach during the run-off campaign. Political positions were represented in a confrontational context, sometimes marred by allegations of public pressure and misuse of public funds and by isolated acts of violence. The Central Electoral Commission proved again its competence and orderly handled the formulation of voting lists, election day procedures and vote counting and tabulation. Some Precinct Electoral Commissions, however, were negatively assessed for their handling of their vote counting and tabulation procedures. Moreover, the initially calm context of the first round became tense during the day, with violent altercations at some stations and overcrowding and interferences caused by citizen observers.

The second round was characterised by increased administrative and judicial difficulties as no clear legal framework disciplined it. Many electoral results were challenged in court and issues of inadequate appealing procedures arose, thus partly weakening public trust in election administration. The OSCE/ODIHR Mission particularly criticised the short amount of time provided for electoral appeals and the insufficient improvements in the framework for the regulation of campaign funds. This was, however, also the first time in years in which ethnic minorities issues were placed at the centre of debate in some districts, and minority candidates and women were present, although in small numbers or scarcely relevant positions. It must be noted that in neither election the poll could be extended to the breakaway regions.

27 October 2013 Presidential Elections

Candidate	Nominating party	Votes	%
Giorgi Margvelashvili	Georgian Dream–Democratic Georgia	1,012,569	62.12
Davit Bakradze	United National Movement	354,103	21.72
Nino Burjanadze	Democratic Movement – United Georgia	166,061	10.19
Shalva Natelashvili	Labour Party	46,984	2.88
Giorgi Targamadze	Christian-Democratic Movement	17,354	1.06
Koba Davitashvili	People's Party	9,838	0.60
Zurab Kharatishvili	European Democrats	3,718	0.23
Invalid/blank votes		30,988	–
<b>Total</b>		<b>1,660,976</b>	<b>100</b>
Registered voters/turnout		3,537,719	46.95

Source: Georgia CEC

October 8-30 2016 Parliamentary Elections

Party	Proportional			Constituency
	Votes	%	Seats	Seats
Georgian Dream Coalition	856,638	48.68	44	71
United National Movement	477,053	27.11	27	0
Alliance of Patriots of Georgia	88,097	5.01	6	0
Free Democrats	81,464	4.63	0	0
Democratic Movement – United Georgia	62,166	3.53	0	0
State for a People	60,681	3.45	0	0
Labour Party of Georgia	55,208	3.14	0	0
Republican Party	27,264	1.55	0	0
Industry Will Save Georgia-Our Fatherland	13,788	0.78	0	1
Independents	–	–	–	1
Invalid/blank votes	65,422	–	–	–
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,825,054</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>73</b>
Registered voters/turnout	3,513,884	51.94	–	–

Source: Georgia CEC

## 2.3 Political Parties



### *Georgian Dream – Democratic Georgia*

Georgian Dream – Democratic Georgia evolved from the public movement Georgian Dream, launched by billionaire Bidzina Ivanishvili as a platform for his political activities in December 2011. The party successfully challenged the ruling United National Movement (UNM) in the 2012 parliamentary election; it won the election in coalition with six other opposition parties, with 54.97% of the vote, winning 85 seats in parliament. It then won again in the 2016 parliamentary elections and is now chaired by prime minister Giorgi Kvirikashvili.

Although the party has at times identified itself as social-democratic and pro-welfare, its ideology is at best ambiguous, as the party is composed of various figures from the intelligentsia, the businesses, public administration and previous political experiences. It defines itself as pro-European, but tries at the same time to improve ties with Russia. Even more heterogeneous is the Georgian Dream coalition, which the party leads. The coalition counts on the support of the Conservative Party of Georgia (centre-right and nationalist), the Social Democrats for the Development of Georgia (centre-left and pro-European) and the Green Party of Georgia (conservative). One of the main unifying factors of the coalition is still the opposition to Saakashvili and his perceived political heirs.



### *United National Movement*

The United National Movement (UNM) was founded in October 2001 by Mikheil Saakashvili as a reformist party favouring closer ties with NATO and the European Union, as well as the restoration of Georgian control over the breakaway regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia.

Saakashvili and other Georgian opposition leaders formed a "United People's Alliance" in November 2003 to bring together the United National Movement, the United Democrats, the Union of National Solidarity and the youth movement "Kmara" in a loose alliance against the government of President Eduard Shevardnadze. They played a central role in the November 2003 Rose Revolution that toppled Shevardnadze. After the fall of Shevardnadze, the party joined forces with the United Democrats and the Union of National Solidarity to promote Saakashvili as the principal opposition candidate in the presidential elections of January 2004, which he won by an overwhelming majority. The United National Movement and the United Democrats amalgamated the following month. The party won again the 2008 elections, but not those in 2012. Moreover, after them the UNM suffered several defections of its parliament members to new parties. This trend continued after the 2016 elections: the party split on 12 January 2017 after many of the UNM MPs broke away from the parliamentary faction to form a separate group, Movement for Liberty - European Georgia, leaving the UNM with only six seats in parliament.

Originally a centre-left party, the UNM has moved to the centre-right since the Rose Revolution, combining political, economic and cultural liberalism with civic nationalism. Leaders of UNM label themselves as liberal-conservative and in September 2007 the party became an observer member of the centre-right European People's Party (EPP).



### *Movement for Liberty – Democratic Georgia*

Movement for Liberty – Democratic Georgia is the product of a split in the UNM occurred after the 2016 elections, following a conflict between Davit Bakradze and former Mayor of Tbilisi Gigi Ugulava and members of the party loyal to former President of Georgia Mikheil Saakashvili. The new faction initially renamed itself into European Georgia, before choosing the current name. Party leader Gigi Ugulava was initially named interim secretary general until a party conference could be held. On 27 May 2017 the party convention elected Bakradze as the chairman of the party and Ugulava as secretary-general.

The party shares many of the views of the UNM's liberal conservatism, but its members insist particularly on contesting elections against the Georgian Dream coalition, instead of boycotting them. Giorgi Ugulava also described the Movement as more liberal than the UNM.



#### *Alliance of Patriots of Georgia*

The Alliance of Patriots of Georgia was established in December 2012. Its founders and leaders are Davit Tarkhan-Mouravi and Irma Inashvili, while Giorgi Lomia is the current political secretary; the party leadership also includes the former warlord Emzar Kvitsiani, a figure that has attracted significant controversy. The party was born on the foundations of the Resistance Movement, a group fiercely critical of the former ruling party, the United National Movement. It maintains anti-Turkish rhetoric, warning of Ankara's designs on the Adjara region, has called for delaying free trade with the EU and argues that the pursuit of NATO membership is fruitless. The party first ran in 2014 local elections, before gaining six seats in the 2016 parliamentary elections.



#### *Industry Will Save Georgia*

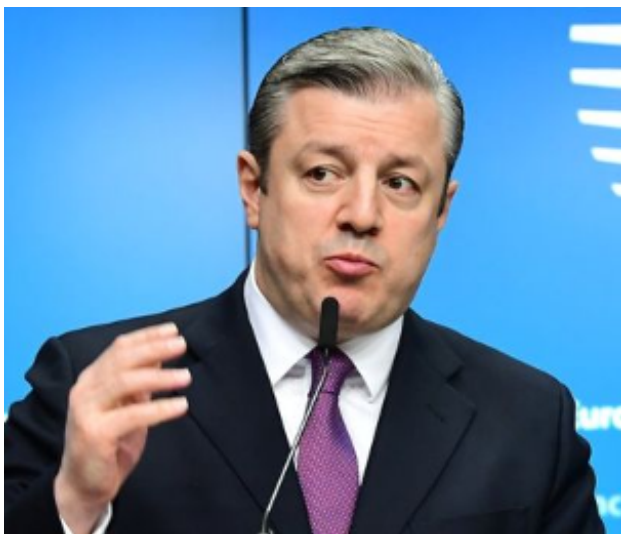
Industry Will Save Georgia is centre-right and conservative. It was founded in 1999 by Gogi Topadze, owner of a beer and drinks company (Kazbegi), and gathered pro-business and industrial lobbyists. Its main objective was to change the country's economic policy, especially by fighting the influence of the International Monetary Fund. The party took part in the 1999 parliamentary elections and won 15 seats, making it the third-strongest party. Even though it was not part of the government, it co-operated with then-ruling Citizens' Union of Georgia (CUG) of President Eduard Shevardnadze and did not constitute a firm opposition. During the legislative elections on 28 March 2004 the party was on the opposition, winning 23 seats and becoming the second political force behind the UNM. In the 2012 elections Industry will save Georgia was part of the winning Georgian Dream alliance, but the party then left the Georgian Dream coalition before the 2016 parliamentary elections. Georgian Dream continues to co-operate with it, however, also in the current legislature, in which the party won one seat in a majoritarian constituency.

## 2.4 Key Political Leaders



*Giorgi Margvelashvili*

Giorgi Margvelashvili took office as Georgian president in November 2013, bringing to an end the decade-long presidency of charismatic reformer Mikhail Saakashvili. Margvelashvili, a former philosophy lecturer, assumed a weakened role because constitutional changes that came into force with his inauguration transferred key powers from the presidency to the prime minister. He had little political experience before being elected and has been seen as beholden to billionaire and Georgian Dream founder Ivanishvili.



*Giorgi Kvirikashvili*

Giorgi Kvirikashvili took over as prime minister following the sudden resignation of his predecessor Irakli Garibashvili in December 2015. Both men belong to the Georgian Dream coalition. Kvirikashvili has a background in banking, and, before becoming prime minister, served as economy minister and then foreign minister under Garibashvili. No explanation was given for Garibashvili's sudden resignation in 2015, with some blaming Georgian Dream's falling opinion poll ratings and tensions with president Margvelashvili. After Kvirikashvili took

over, the party's popularity recovered sufficiently for it to win another parliamentary election in October 2016.



*Bidzina Ivanishvili*

Georgian billionaire Bidzina Ivanishvili was the founder, in 2011, of the Georgian Dream – Democratic Georgia party and of the Georgian Dream coalition, which defeated Saakashvili's United National Movement after nearly a decade in power, building on many Georgians' disaffection with Saakashvili's methods of exercising his power. Ivanishvili took advantage of early post-Soviet liberalisation to build his economic empire, now amounting to more than 4 billion dollars. Ivanishvili assumed after the 2012 parliamentary elections the newly strengthened position of prime minister, but stepped down after the inauguration of his ally Giorgi Margvelashvili as president in November 2013 and handed over to Garibashvili, saying his goal – ousting Saakashvili – was now done. Many observers, however, suspect Ivanishvili is continuing to run the show from the sidelines – an accusation he denies. Critics say this move has made him less accountable in a moment when judicial proceedings against former UNM members draw criticism from some for possibly being politically motivated. His quick appearance on the political stage seemed to be more motivated by the desire to oust Saakashvili, gathering what oppositions he could, rather than by a coherent political design, leading to disillusion by some. Certain far-right forces have been defined as “awoken” by his passage.





#### *Mikheil Saakashvili*

Mikheil Saakashvili's tumultuous decade in power is among the key events in Georgian recent history, and Saakashvili, although in exile and deprived of Georgian citizenship, still is a divisive and influential figure in Georgian politics. Saakashvili was leader of the reformers who toppled the Shevardnadze presidency in the 2003 Rose Revolution, then ascending to the presidency and seeing his party, the United National Movement,

conquer a decisive majority in parliament. The following eight years saw him transform and modernise Georgia, ramming through reforms to combat corruption, renovate infrastructure and kick-start the economy, but he also got sucked into a disastrous five-day war with Russia over the breakaway republic of South Ossetia in 2008. His methods of rule and monopoly of power drew many criticisms, and his government has been accused of having fought low-level corruption so hard only to favour elite-level corruption among government officials, leading in the end to his downfall.

Saakashvili's popularity already began to decline in 2007 and he eventually had to concede defeat to the Georgian Dream coalition, marking the first peaceful transfer of power in Georgian history. After the elections, however, several figures close to Saakashvili, including a former prime minister, have been arrested and charged with a variety of crimes. The former president himself took Ukrainian citizenship and briefly served as governor of that country's Odessa Region. Critics say this is a targeted campaign against allies of the former president, but defenders say it is a justified reckoning with the misdemeanours of the former government. Saakashvili proved to be a prominent and divisive figure in Ukraine as well, being heralded by some as an anti-corruption moderniser, but entering into conflict with government and being himself charged with corruption.

## 2.5 Media Landscape and Civil Society

### *Media Landscape*

The Georgian media environment is wide and varied. The constitution provides for freedom of speech, and journalists often criticise officials. Georgia has the freest and most diverse media landscape in the region, although often lacking objective sources of information. Television is the main source of news, and accounts for the lion's share of the advertising market, while newspaper readership is generally low. There are dozens of cable operators and a handful of major commercial stations. Government-funded Georgian Public Broadcasting has replaced the former state radio and TV, as part of reforms in which the state also relinquished other media assets, including newspapers and a news agency.

The media environment is highly politicised, but no major outlet that covers news and current affairs appears to be owned, controlled or bankrolled by current political actors. The main national TVs tend to back the government, but the most watched and most commercially successful TV station, Rustavi-2, is an outspoken critic of the current Georgian Dream coalition. This delicate balance is, however, at risk of being overturned as the result of a litigation over the ownership of Rustavi-2. On 2 March 2017 the Supreme Court ruled to transfer the ownership of Rustavi 2 TV to its former co-owners – known to be government supporters – upholding previous rulings by the court of first instance and the Court of Appeals. Local NGOs have raised concerns about possible government interference in the judicial process and called the trial unfair. The judgement is now suspended as the European Court of Human Rights is considering the case.

Internet is also widespread as a source of information: there are almost 2.2 million Internet users and there is no censorship of online content. By far the most popular online platform is Myvideo.ge, which is a video sharing platform that also offers live streaming of over 50 TV channels with a three-month archive. Greater online access has led to a growth in social media use: Facebook is Georgia's most popular web destination, while Forum.ge is a widely-used chat forum, but there is low public awareness of blogs. Georgia has already experienced cyber attacks, as it happened in the 2008 war.

These are the main media outlets:

#### **Press**

- Rezonansi - private, daily;
- Kviris Palitra - private, weekly;
- The Georgian Times - English-language, weekly;
- Georgia Today - English-language, weekly;
- The Messenger - English-language daily;
- Asaval-Dasavali - private, weekly;

#### **Television**

- Georgian Public TV - operates two networks;
- Rustavi-2 - private network;
- Imedi TV - private network;

- Maestro TV - private network;
- Kavkasia TV – private;
- Tabula – private;
- Obieketivi – private;
- GDS (Georgian Dream Studio) – private;

#### **Radio**

- Georgian Public Radio - operates two networks;
- Radio Imedi - private, national news and speech network;
- Fortuna FM - private, music-based;
- Mtsvane Talgha (Green Wave) - national network linked to non-governmental organisations;
- Radio GIPA - in English, relaying programmes from Western broadcasters, such as BBC and NPR;

#### **News agencies/internet**

- GHN - private
- InterpressNews - private, pages in English;
- Civil Georgia - run by UN Association of Georgia, pages in English;
- Netgazeti – private;
- Info9 – private;
- Ambebi.ge – private.

### *Civil Society*

Years after the Rose Revolution, Georgian civil society is still weak and little influential. Citizens have little capacity to influence political developments owing to lack of engagement, clientelist networks and corruption. Meanwhile, according to a usual scheme in post-Soviet countries, Western-funded NGOs form a small elite where professional leaders use access to domestic policy-makers and Western donors to influence public policies, but remain disconnected from the public at large. Funding remains foreign, with 95% of NGOs never having been supported by local businesses.

Civic consultation remains feeble. The 2009 amendments to the law on self-governance required local authorities to engage citizens in policy formulation. Public councils and citizens' advisory committees, composed of public figures and NGO representatives, were constituted in Tbilisi city hall and in some national ministries, but most exist only on paper. They can be a useful way to open up national and local government to public scrutiny, but their power is limited, often due to the formal approach by the bureaucracy and weak NGO expertise. In this context, the most prominent voice is the one of the Church, whose positions can be, however, quite conservative. Some instances of civic activism have been seen in particular during the election campaigns and promise major improvements in this sector in the next years.

## 2.6 Security Sector

The new Georgian constitutional model of governance has changed since 2012, affecting the security architecture. It increased the competencies of the cabinet and decreased the presidential powers over the security sector. Three main state actors work within the national security sector, namely: the Ministry of Defence, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, and the intelligence agencies.

### *Ministry of Internal Affairs*

The MIA of Georgia has policing, investigative, border control, anti-terrorist and emergency assistance functions. It is the largest agency within the security system, and exercised virtually unlimited authority until the separation from the State Security Service in 2015. Despite some reforms, the MIA to this day lacks a clearly defined framework for institutional and functional division of its powers. The reform of the patrol police was successful and as a result increased the public trust towards the police; however, the MIA's other activities still require further reforms.

### *Ministry of Defence*

The construction of the national defence sector, following Georgia's independence in 1991, had to start from ground zero. The human resources needed to develop the armed forces were in very short supply. The 1991 coup d'état and the armed conflicts in the regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia, the economic collapse of the 1990s and the rampant corruption in the state structures all complicated the process of construction of a functional defence sector and armed forces. The international assistance provided to Georgia has greatly contributed to the development of the Georgian defence; moreover, the leadership of the MoD has attempted to increase the transparency of the activities of the agency, as well as securing greater engagement of civil society in the process of development of key policy documents in the defence sector. These positive practices, however, have not yet been institutionalised through appropriate regulations, as the culture of single-handed administration of agencies by their heads is still widely influential in Georgia.

### *Intelligence Sector*

According to the legislative framework, the intelligence and counter-intelligence services are institutionally separated. The Georgian Intelligence Service is in charge of intelligence activities, while the State Security Service is tasked with counter-intelligence operations. Both are accountable to the Prime Minister. The main document, which defines the framework of the intelligence activities, is the Intelligence Concept Paper. The legislation does not determine specifically which agency is in charge of developing it, so its implementation is based on already existing practices. The framework for the drafting of the document is not yet complete. According to the law, the Chief Prosecutor and the prosecutor he or she designates for this task oversee the confinement of intelligence activities within the limits set by the legislative framework. However, a number of legislative loopholes leave

some intelligence activities at the operational level outside of the oversight authority of the judiciary or prosecutor's office.

### *Democratic Oversight*

In general, the legislative framework for parliamentary oversight of the executive in Georgia corresponds to internationally recognised standards. However, its role in the appointment or dismissal of high level state officials dealing with the security sector is rather limited. The parliamentary authority to receive detailed information regarding the concrete expenditures planned in the security sector or to present amendments to the budget assigned to the relevant agencies is limited as well. The parliament is not able to fully exercise its oversight functions vis-à-vis the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the State Intelligence Service, and the classified programs of the defence and other security sector agencies are subject to only limited oversight.

A group of NGOs work in the security sector with the objective of facilitating civil society engagement in the reform process and strengthening the mechanisms for civic oversight. While, in terms of civic engagement, the MoD engages closely with NGOs working in the relevant area, cooperation between the representatives of the civil sector and the Ministries of Internal Affairs and Foreign Affairs is rather limited. This and the parliament's limited powers hinder the effectiveness of democratic oversight over the sector.

### *Abkhazia and South Ossetia*

Many Georgian security issues are related to the status of the breakaway republics in the north and west of the country. The two regions, after expelling Georgian forces and civilians in a series of wars, have drifted closer and closer to Russia. Russia is among the few countries having recognised them as independent states, and signed strategic cooperation agreements with them taking control of border checks with Georgia and abolishing them on the Russian border. The economy of the two regions is heavily reliant on Russian support and their political landscape is generally pro-Russian. Russian forces are present on the ground, leading Georgia to define them as Russian-occupied territories. Particularly worrying was, in 2015, the advancement of the South-Ossetian border 1.5 km in Georgian territory, threatening the main East-West Georgian highway.

In response to the regions' declaration of independence, in 2008 the Georgian parliament adopted the "Law on Occupied Territories of Georgia". The law restricts free movement and economic activity in the territories. Foreign citizens should enter into Abkhazia from the Zugdidi District and into South Ossetia from the Gori District. Entering from other states but Georgia is illegal. A special permit for entry into the breakaway regions can be issued if the objectives are to serve Georgia's state interests or to favour a peaceful resolution of the conflict, de-occupation or humanitarian purposes. Citizens of foreign countries and persons without citizenship having entered Georgia from the Russian side through Abkhazia and South Ossetia, who seek asylum in the country are not subject to punishment. Most economic activities and real estate

transactions are prohibited if they are not allowed by Georgian authorities. *De facto* state agencies and officials operating in the occupied territories are regarded by Georgia as illegal. The Russian Federation is deemed fully responsible for the violation

of human rights in Abkhazia and South Ossetia and material and moral damage inflicted on Georgian citizens, stateless persons and foreign citizens who are in Georgia and enter the occupied territories with appropriate permits.

### **3. Law enforcement structures and actors**

## 3.1 The Police

Georgia's law enforcement sector underwent many important changes after the Rose Revolution and Saakashvili's rise to power. Georgian police previously resented from Soviet-era legacies and was particularly corrupt and inefficient. When Shevardnadze lost grip on power, fight against corruption became one of the main goals of the new reformist government, prompting an extensive and thorough reform. In 2005 many members of the Ministry and in particular of the traffic police force were fired and wholly replaced by new recruits, trained by international officers from OSCE, the US, the EU and other countries and organisations. Salaries were increased and control measures tightened. Current trust in the police is much higher than before and Georgia has been heralded as a beacon of light among South Caucasian and more generally post-Soviet countries; however, there is still much room for further substantial improvements. Politicisation of the Ministry of Internal Affairs has been often criticised and led in 2015 to another important reform, separating the State Security Service from the rest of the Ministry; this helped to better define the policing competences of the body. Now it is the role that will be played by the Judiciary, still much politicised and resistant to changes, that is crucial for the prosecution of reforms.

### *The Ministry of Internal Affairs*

The Ministry of Internal Affairs constitutes the law enforcement agency of the country. Giorgi Gakharia is currently minister. The Ministry is divided into many functional and regional departments and has numerous functions: emergency assistance, policing, border control and counter-intelligence. The departments are:

- Department for the Administration of the Ministry
- General Inspection Department
- Economic Department
- Logistics Department
- Human Resources Management Department
- Forensic-Criminal Department

- Information-Analytical Department
- Central Criminal Police Department
- Patrol Police Department
- National Central Bureau of Interpol in Georgia
- Special and Emergency Operations Centre
- Emergency Situations Management Agency
- Research and Development Department
- International Relations Department
- Human Rights Protection and Monitoring Department
- Public Relations Department
- Internal Audit Department
- Operative Department
- Migration Department
- Legal Department
- Strategic Pipelines Protection Department
- Special Tasks Department

Territorial departments are present in each region:

- Police Department of the Autonomous Republic of Abkhazia
- Police Department of the Autonomous Republic of Adjara
- Tbilisi Police Department
- Mtskheta-Mtianeti Police Department
- Shida Kartli Police Department
- Kvemo Kartli Police Department
- Kakheti Police Department
- Samtskhe-Javakheti Police Department
- Imereti, Racha-Lechkhumi and Kvemo Svaneti Police Department
- Guria Police Department
- Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti Police Department

The Ministry of Internal Affairs also controls an Academy, the Service Agency and the Border Police of Georgia (the latter qualified as a subordinate state agency).

## 3.2 Security actors

### *Georgian Intelligence Service*

Founded in 1997 as the Georgian Intelligence State Department, the agency was then briefly incorporated into the Ministry of Internal Affairs between 2004 and 2005, before being separated again as the Foreign Intelligence Special Service of Georgia. In 2010 it was then renamed the Georgian Intelligence Service, and in 2013 it was constituted as a special executive agency, directly subordinated to the prime minister. The Georgian Intelligence Service conducts intelligence activities in the political, economic, military, informational, environmental and scientific-technological fields. It also takes part in fighting against international terrorism and counter-intelligence activities, when falling within its competence.

### *State Security Service*

The State Security Service was constituted in 2015 by separating the security and policing functions of the Ministry of Internal Affairs. It is directly subordinated to the government and ensures state security within its sphere of competence. The heads of the State Security Service have a higher level of independence compared to a minister, since they are appointed by the Parliament for a 6-year term. The mission and activities of the Service are the following: protecting Georgia's constitutional order, sovereignty, territorial integrity and military potential from illegal acts of special services and individuals of foreign countries; ensure the protection of Georgia's constitutional order and state authority from unconstitutional and violent political changes; ensuring the economic security of the country; fighting against terrorism; fighting against transnational organised crime and international crime when threatening state security; protecting state secrets, conducting measures to ensure the protection of state secrets as provided by the legislation of Georgia and monitoring their implementation; and protecting the country from a series of other external threats.

### *Anti-corruption Agency*

The Anti-Corruption Agency has been under the State Security Service since 2015, originally being part of the Ministry of Internal Affairs. Besides the desire to weaken and depoliticise

the Ministry, the transfer of the Agency was also explained by the fact that corruption was considered to be a national security issue. The Anti-Corruption Agency has the authority to investigate the following corruption crimes under the Criminal Code of Georgia: bribery of voters; abuse of functions; abuse of position; illicit involvement in commerce; active bribery; passive bribery; trading in influence; accepting unlawful gifts; forgery in public office. Anti-corruption functions are, however, shared with a number of other agencies and departments, generating some ineffectiveness; the Inter-Agency Coordination Council to Combat Corruption is tasked with coordinating anti-corruption efforts.

### *Patrol Police*

The Patrol Police is a department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs. Within the scopes of its competence it carries out the functions of public order protection and road security maintenance, implements operational-searching activities and conducts investigations. At border checkpoints the patrol police ensures the protection of the border regime.

### *Security Police*

The Security Police ensures the protection of approximately 10,000 facilities throughout the territory of Georgia, including important strategic objects such as international airports, the national treasury, diplomatic missions accredited in the country and railways. It is a department within the Ministry of Internal Affairs and carries out the functions connected with the prevention and avoidance of crimes and other offences against the objects under protection.

### *Border Police*

The Border Police serves under the Ministry of Internal Affairs as a state subordinate agency. The main tasks of the Border Police are the protection of the State border and of Georgian territorial integrity. According to Georgian legislation, the Border Police ensures the prevention and exposure of illegal acts at the State border, be it on land or by the sea. The Georgian Coast Guard is a branch of the Border Police, extending its jurisdiction over the maritime territories of Georgia.

### 3.3 The judiciary

Georgia's courts follow a civil law system. Three degrees of judgement are present, from regional courts to the Courts of Appeal to the Supreme Court of Georgia. An overseeing body is present, the High Council of Justice of Georgia. The Prosecutor's Office has been made independent from the Ministry of Justice.

#### *The Supreme Court*

The Supreme Court considers claims on the judgements of the Courts of Appeal on the grounds of procedural law. The President and judges of the Court are elected for a period of at least ten years by a majority of the Parliament from the current nominal list submitted by the President of Georgia. The chairman and the members have immunity from prosecution. The Supreme Court is divided into a Chamber of Civil Cases, a Chamber of Administrative Cases, a Chamber of Criminal Cases, the Grand Chamber, the Plenum and the Disciplinary Chamber.

#### *The High Council of Justice*

The High Council of Justice was created in order to coordinate the judiciary system and promote the effectiveness and independence of the judiciary. Its main functions are the organisation of the qualifying exams for judges, the selection and appointment of judges for regional and appeal courts as well as specialised panels, disciplinary proceedings and legislative drafting. In November 2013 a series of legal changes were implemented, which fixed the composition of the High Council of Justice of Georgia at 15 members. 8 of them are elected by the self-governing body of the judges, 5 by the Parliament of Georgia and 1 by the President. The Chairperson of the Supreme Court is member and Chairperson of the Council by officio.

#### *The Prosecutor's Office*

The Prosecutor's Office of Georgia is responsible for conducting preliminary investigation, supervising the accurate and regular implementation of law during the activity of the

operational-investigative bodies, providing criminal prosecution, checking cases of violations of the rights of imprisoned persons and procedural violations in cases of arrest, pretrial-detention and imprisonment, participating as a party in criminal law cases at courts, coordinating the fight against crime, providing for the implementation of measures on human rights protection, conducting investigative and other procedural actions on the territory of a foreign country and executing such actions on the territory of Georgia at the request of the competent organs of a foreign country, and handling extradition issues.

#### *The Current Situation*

The politicisation of the judiciary is one of the most serious legacies of Saakashvili's administration. The Prosecutor's Office still remains the weakest link in Georgia's judicial system. Until 2012, the prosecution was a branch of the executive and courts were, to some degree, dependent on the executive. Prosecutors are now accustomed to not substantiating their requests; moreover, after separating the Prosecutor's Office from the Ministry of Justice, no institutional oversight was introduced.

The independence of the judiciary, particularly at the level of individual judges, remains an important challenge. The formation of clans, i.e. groups of influential judges, is a particularly pressing issue. It is favoured by the ambiguous regulations for the appointment of chairs, making the office a means for rewarding influential and obedient judges. Court chairs are the most influential judges and the powers delegated to them by law create an opportunity to exercise control over individual judges. Another problem is the ambiguity of the system for transferring a judge to another court. There is a reasonable suspicion that the previous government used the mechanism to punish judges or to reward the ones who were obedient, but such practice still seems to persist: the lack of transparency makes it impossible to check if an individual is suitable for an office, and justifications for transfers often seem unfounded and very similar to each other.



## **4. Migrations and Human Rights Issues**

## 4.1 Internal and International Migration

Georgia is characterised by a negative net migration rate of -2.5 migrants/1,000 people, with 4.2% of the population being composed by immigrants. Outward migration is mainly motivated by the lack of economic opportunities at home, and emigrants' yearly remittances amount to more than 2,000 million US\$. The current migration management system is outdated and requires a modernisation of regulations and procedures. Human trafficking issues are present and require continued engagement. Finally, one of the most pressing issues is the internal displacement of people, which has been unsolved since the 1990s conflicts.

### *Internal Displacement*

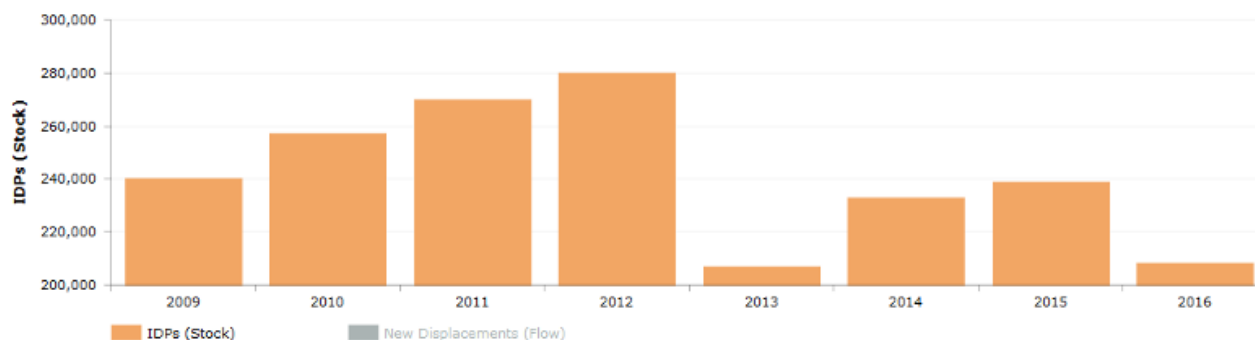
There were up to 208,000 Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) registered by the government in Georgia as of the end of 2016. Most of them were displaced in the early 1990s as a result of the armed conflicts in Abkhazia and South Ossetia; a further number of IDPs was added to them in 2008 by the Russo-Georgian war over South Ossetia. While most of the 138,000 people who were displaced during the war were able to return, some have joined the ranks of those displaced in the 1990s. Talks on humanitarian issues between Georgia, Russia and the de facto authorities in South Ossetia and Abkhazia have continued, but without achieving concrete results for IDPs. There were also internally displaced people within South Ossetia, numbering at least 10,000 in 2010. Displacement has left IDPs at a disadvantage, with their income levels being either comparable with or slightly higher than poor households in the general population. Many rely on state

subsidies, such as the monthly allowance for IDPs, as their main source of income. The government also provides housing assistance to IDPs living in collective centres, but most of those living outside them have been left out of housing programmes. Participation of IDPs has been limited, the most vulnerable IDPs have not been prioritised for assistance, and forced evictions have resulted in worse living conditions in some cases. The international response to displacement has largely focused on supporting the local integration of IDPs who are unable to return through housing, livelihoods and legal programmes.

With the exception of the Abkhaz district of Gali, the de facto authorities in South Ossetia and Abkhazia refuse to allow IDPs to return on the basis that a large influx of Georgians would upset the ethnic balance and compromise security. Over the years, tens of thousands of IDPs have returned to Gali, though many movements have been seasonal in order to cultivate land, with families maintaining two residences. Most returnees have been able to retain their registration documents as IDPs. These are issued and only recognised by the Georgian government, allowing them to continue to access rights and benefits in Georgia proper.

Returnees to Gali, however, have struggled with inadequate housing and limited incomes. Some also returned to areas close to the line between Georgia proper and South Ossetia, but feelings of insecurity among residents remain high due to the presence of Russian and South Ossetian forces in their immediate proximity. Access to pre-war infrastructures and water sources has sometimes been prevented by the border fence erected on the South Ossetian side.

### ★ Conflict and violence displacement figures



Source: Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre

## 4.2 Human Rights Situation

### *Ratified human rights instruments*

Georgia is a party to most core international human rights instruments, including: the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and its second Optional Protocol aiming to the abolition of the death penalty; the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination; the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women; the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment including its Optional Protocol; The Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearances; the Convention on the Rights of the Child; The Convention on the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families; and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Georgia is also a party to the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (ECHR). Capital punishment was completely abolished on 1 May 2000, when Protocol No. 6 to the ECHR was signed.

Despite the important steps taken to deepen ties with the European Union – including commitments to progress on human rights – Georgia has, however, been struggling in particular with issues of discrimination, privacy, media freedom and accountability.

### *LGBTQI People Discrimination*

The new constitution defines marriage “a union of a woman and a man,” enshrining in constitutional law the already existing civil code definition; using the constitution to reinforce the ban on same-sex marriage could add to already existing homophobia in the country. The Venice Commission said the clause should not be interpreted as prohibiting same-sex partnership and urged Georgia to provide legal recognition of civil unions for same-sex couples. Instead, it was welcomed the decision of the Constitutional Court to declare unconstitutional the ban on gay and bisexual men donating blood.

Some episodes confirmed the presence of discriminating behaviours in society and the institutions. In August 2017, unidentified persons in Batumi assaulted three transgender women and two activists with the LGBTQI rights group Equality Movement, inflicting bruises on activists Levan Berianidze and Tornike Kusiani. The assailants shouted homophobic slurs. Police officers standing nearby allegedly did nothing to stop the assailants, taking them to a police station instead and allegedly abusing them physically and verbally. The next day, a court fined them for disorderly conduct and disobeying police. An investigation has been opened into their complaint and is currently ongoing. In another episode, in May 2017, a small group of gay rights activists and supporters celebrating the International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia in Tbilisi had to be escorted by Police amid heavy security to protect them against counter demonstrators.

### *Privacy*

The current Georgian legislation allows for extensive access to the networks of telecommunications operators by security

services in order to monitor communications. In 2016 the Constitutional Court ruled this legal framework unconstitutional, as the system allowed mass collection of personal information in real time without effective oversight. The Court required the establishment of an independent oversight agency, but NGOs, the Ombudsman and the Georgian president have filed a new lawsuit claiming that the agency, being not sufficiently independent, does not represent an effective change from the previous system and still does not guarantee the respect of the right to privacy.

### *Media Freedom*

Much of Georgia’s freedom of expression in the media sector will depend on the outcome of the Rustavi-2 TV station litigation. In March, the Supreme Court ruled that the station’s ownership should revert to Kibar Khalvashi, a businessman who owned it from 2004 to 2006 and who alleged that he had been improperly forced to sell the station at below market value by then-president Saakashvili. The court issued a unanimous decision the same day it examined the case, declining to allow the parties to make oral arguments. In June, the broadcaster stopped airing two joint programs with Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty. A regional TV station, Adjara TV, picked up both cancelled shows.

The European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) has ordered to suspend the Supreme Court’s decision until further notice and instructed Georgian authorities to refrain from interfering in the station in the interim.

### *Accountability*

Georgia still faces many critiques regarding impunity for human rights abuses committed by law enforcement officers. Investigations, if launched, often lead to charges that carry lesser and inappropriate sanctions and rarely result in convictions. Authorities often refuse to grant victim status to those who allege abuse, denying them the opportunity to review investigation files. Since November 2016, the Georgian Young Lawyers’ Association (GYLA), a human rights group, has received at least 20 allegations of torture and ill-treatment by police, and five by prison staff. According to GYLA, authorities did not effectively investigate the allegations. The government has often promised to establish an independent investigation mechanism, but no significant improvement has been achieved yet. In June 2017, instead of an independent investigation mechanism, the government proposed a new department within the Prosecutor’s Office with a mandate to investigate alleged abuses by law enforcement officers. At the ombudsman’s request, the prosecutor’s office has launched investigations into 63 cases of alleged torture and ill-treatment since 2014, but the investigations have led to no criminal prosecutions.

Some high-profile cases have shown the difficulties Georgian authorities still face in ensuring police and security forces’ accountability. In May 2017 Azerbaijani journalist and political activist Afgan Mukhtarli, who lived in political exile in Georgia, vanished from central Tbilisi and resurfaced in Azerbaijani border police custody, facing illegal border crossing and other

charges. Mukhtarli alleged that several people wearing Georgian police uniforms and speaking Georgian stopped him near his house, put a bag over his head, pushed him into a car, beat him, and drove him away. Authorities have launched an investigation and denied security service involvement. In June 2017 two members of the rap group Birja Mafia were arrested for alleged drug possession, but claimed police had planted drugs on them

in revenge for a YouTube video satirising a police officer, and cited earlier threats from police demanding that they remove the video. In the same month, the first instance court in Kutaisi acquitted a police officer charged with “exceeding official capacity” in relation to the suicide of 22-year-old Demur Sturua, who allegedly killed himself after ill-treatment and persecution by the officer.

## **5. The UN and Georgia**

## 5. The UN and Georgia

Georgia's attainment of sovereignty and independence in 1991 ushered in both a new page in its historical development and a range of issues, which, if not resolved, would seriously undermine its chances for integration into the world community. Adhering to the United Nations was an obvious choice, both in order to ensure international recognition and to receive international assistance from the UN and its agencies. Georgia became the 179th member of the United Nations in July 1992, thereby accepting the values and principles of the organization. The Office of the United Nations in Georgia was established in early 1993. Since then, the country has been home to UN agencies, funds, and programmes that work to respond to national development needs and improve the economic and social conditions of people in Georgia. Some of the agencies, funds and programmes have formal resident representation while others support the country from their regional offices or the UN headquarters without a field presence. The dividing line between Abkhazia and Georgia proper had been patrolled by the United Nations Observer Mission In Georgia (UNOMIG) until 2009. Following the events of the Russo-Georgian war, however, the Russian representative in the UN Security Council vetoed on 14 June 2009 a resolution further extending the mandate of the Mission, which now does not exist anymore. The Council did not adopt any relevant resolution during the crisis.

Georgia is home to a Resident Coordinator, who, operating on the full authority of the UN Secretary-General, has full responsibility for and direction over all aspects and activities of the UN and its institutions in the country. The Office of Resident Coordinator supports the functioning of the Resident Coordinator system, in which all UN agencies play a role. It is upon the Office of Resident Coordinator for the United Nations in Georgia to ensure that Georgia benefits to the maximum extent from all the development-oriented activities of the UN agencies. For this purpose the Office cooperates and collaborates with the government, many international and bilateral organisations, international and national NGOs, the private sector, Georgian civil society and donor countries, conducting the Common Country Programming Process, assessing the priority areas and developing a UN plan of action (United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF)). This process is normally carried out every five years.

The following UN agencies are active in Georgia:

- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF);
- United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA);
- International Organisation for Migration (IOM);
- United Nations High Commissioner For Refugees (UNHCR);
- World Health Organisation (WHO);
- International Labour Organisation (ILO);

- Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO);
- Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR);
- United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC);
- United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS);
- United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO).

Also active are UN related organisations such as:

- the International Monetary Fund (IMF);
- the World Bank.

Georgia to date has signed seven important United Nations international conventions and treaties on human rights. Georgia is also among the countries, which supported and obligated themselves to implement the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

### *Blueprint for collaboration between UN and Georgia*

In 2015 UN representatives and Georgia signed the 2016-2020 United Nations Partnership for Sustainable Development (UNPSD), summarising a collective strategic response of the UN system to the national development priorities in Georgia for a five-year period. The framework is structured around five focus areas and eight outcomes, chosen to be prioritised after extensive multi-sectoral consultations between the Government, the UN, civil society and other partners. The consultations were based on the analysis of the progresses made by the country and the remaining challenges in political, social and economic development as reflected in recommendations of UN Human Rights mechanisms and Country Assessment Reports prepared with participation of the UN, as well as in national documents such as the Government 2014 MDG Progress Report and the annual reports of government ministries. Civil society and other partners were involved as well.

The five focus areas identified by the Government of Georgia and UN country team for the 2016-2020 partnership framework are:

1. Democratic Governance;
2. Jobs, Livelihood and Social Protection;
3. Education;
4. Health;
5. Human Security and Community Resilience.

Several UN agencies take part towards the achievement of these goals, including FAO, IAEA, ILO, IOM, UNECE, UNEP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNIDO, UNHCR, UNODC, UN Women and WHO. The resources requested by the UN agencies towards the achievement of the set goals total 156 million US\$.

## **6. The EU - Georgia Relations**

## 6.1 An Important Partner

In the past years the European Union has been supporting Georgia with programmes aimed at developing peace, stability and social and economic development. In June 2014 the EU and Georgia signed an Association Agreement, which entered into force on 1 July 2016. Along with the establishment of a Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (DCFTA), the Agreement has further increased the scope of EU-Georgia cooperation, laying down ambitious goals in the domains of democracy and rule of law, human rights, good governance and economic development. The Association Agreement established bodies such as the Association Council to oversee its application, with the Association Agenda defining the priorities necessary for its implementation.

The Association Agreement is part and outcome of the EU's European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP), in which Georgia is one of 16 partner countries. The launch of the EU's Eastern Partnership in 2009 extended cooperation in the region, bolstering reforms, increasing mobility of citizens and strengthening collaboration in a number of sectors, such as transport, energy and the environment.

The EU has always remained firmly committed to its policy of supporting Georgia's territorial integrity within its internationally-recognised borders, engaging with the breakaway regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia in support of

longer-term conflict resolution. Since 2008, an EU Monitoring Mission (EUMM) has operated in the vicinity of the Administrative Boundary Lines. Additionally, to address wider regional challenges of environmental concerns in the Black Sea region, the EU has initiated increased cooperation through the Black Sea Synergy (BSS).

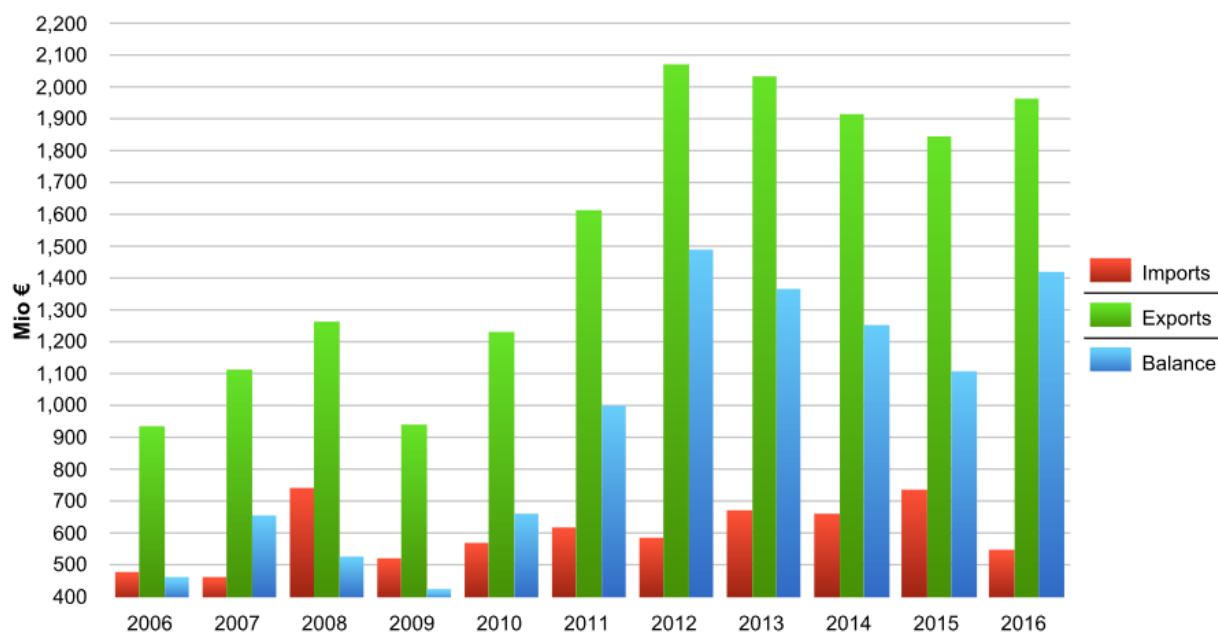
### Trade Relations

The Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area Agreement, representing the main pillar of the Association Agreement, has the ambitious objective of integrating Georgian and EU's internal markets. The provisional application of the DCFTA started on 1 September 2014. Meanwhile, Georgia benefited from the Generalised System of Preferences programme. Trade between the EU and Georgia has been growing steadily over the years and today the EU is Georgia's main trading partner. The DCFTA deepens Georgia's economic ties with the EU, including provisions on public procurement, common customs rules, technical and sanitary standards for goods, intellectual property rights and competition rules. The EU also committed itself to supporting the Georgian government in strengthening its export competitiveness through, for example, the setting-up of Quality Management Systems and Quality Infrastructure Systems to assure standards are met.

### European Union, Trade with Georgia

**Total goods: EU Trade flows and balance, annual data 2006 - 2016**

Source Eurostat Comext - Statistical regime 4



Source: European Commission



## 6.2 EU Support and Cooperation

The EU annually provides more than €100 million in assistance to Georgia, with funding coming mostly from the European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI), which supports Georgia in achieving the goals set out in the Association Agreement and implemented in the Association Agenda for the 2017/2020 period. Georgia also benefits from EU Regional and Multi-country Action Programmes funded under the ENI, which provide contributions for infrastructure development, interconnectivity with neighbours, support to civil society and access to EU programmes like Erasmus+, Horizon 2020 and Creative Europe. The EU also holds regular consultations with Georgian civil society and provides financial support to civil society organisations through instruments such as the ENI, the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR), the Civil Society Organisations and Local Authorities (CSO-LA) Thematic Programme and the Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace (IcSP).

The 2017-2020 Association Agenda lays down 13 priority domains for reform:

- Independence of the judiciary and law enforcement agencies, strengthening judges' independence and justice system accountability, reforming the High Council of Justice and the Prosecutor's office and increasing democratic oversight over law enforcement agencies;
- Public Administration reform and improvement in public services and anti-corruption fighting, monitoring reforms implementation and fostering accountability;
- Human rights and fundamental freedoms, implementing the anti-discrimination law, the Human Rights Strategy and the National Human Rights Action Plan, strengthening media pluralism, transparency and independence and establishing independent mechanisms to investigate allegations of ill treatment by law enforcement bodies;
- Peaceful conflict resolution, maintaining effective cooperation between the EU and Georgia towards a settlement of the conflict with the breakaway regions and contributing to stability, normalisation and confidence building;
- Intensified cooperation in the field of security and defence policy, deepening bilateral dialogue on security and defence issues to address issues of common concern, such as terrorism, international organised crime and hybrid threats;
- Improved business environment and investment management, implementing the Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) strategy and corresponding action plan for 2016-2017, improving the regulatory framework, operational environment and support to SMEs and improving public-private dialogue to identify private sector priorities in need of structural economic reforms and support;
- Agriculture and rural development, implementing the Rural Development Strategy of Georgia 2017-2020 supporting the development of efficient value chains and improving employment in rural areas;
- Trade-related reforms and Sanitary and Phyto-Sanitary (SPS) measures, implementing the Technical Barriers to Trade Strategy (TBT) and the Market Surveillance Strategy and developing related infrastructures and procedures;
- Energy security and efficiency, supporting the implementation of the commitments stemming from Georgia's formal accession to the European Energy Community;
- Transports, developing economically important infrastructure, including projects for the development of the core TEN-T network;
- Environment and climate action, enhancing Georgian approximation to the EU *acquis* in environmental governance by adopting and implementing new legislation, ensuring public access to environmental information and public participation in decision-making and integrating environment into other policy areas;
- Migration, asylum and border management, ensuring respect of the Visa Liberalisation action plan benchmarks as required by the revised visa waiver suspension mechanism and effectively implementing the EU-Georgia Mobility Partnership, Georgia's Migration Strategy 2016-2020 and Georgia's State Integrated Border Management Strategy 2014-2018 and the respective Action Plans;
- Education, employment, research innovation and youth, improving education and research performance through comprehensive reforms, developing a strategic approach to employment and vocational education and training (VET), developing a Georgian Innovation policy and implementing core labour rights.

## 6.3 EUMM Georgia

The European Union Monitoring Mission in Georgia (EUMM) is an unarmed civilian monitoring mission. Mr. Erik Høeg is currently Head of Mission. It was established by the European Union on 15 September 2008, deploying over 200 civilian monitors from EU Member States to Georgia in order to contribute to the stabilisation of the situation on the ground following the 2008 Russo-Georgian war. EUMM members monitor compliance by all sides with the EU-brokered Six-Point Agreement of 12 August 2008, signed by both Georgia and the Russian Federation, and the Agreement on Implementing Measures of 8 September 2008. The Mission started its monitoring activities on 1 October 2008, overseeing the withdrawal of Russian armed forces from the areas adjacent to South Ossetia and Abkhazia. Since then the Mission has been patrolling the areas adjacent to the Administrative Boundary Lines of the breakaway regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia. The Mission's efforts have been primarily directed at observing the situation on the ground, reporting on incidents and, through its presence in the relevant areas, contributing to an improved security situation. The mandate of the Mission is valid throughout Georgia, although, except for a few joint specific visits, Abkhazia and South Ossetia de facto authorities have repeatedly denied access to EUMM Georgia. Originally authorised for 12 months, the mandate has since been extended six times. On 12 December 2016, the European Council extended it until 14 December 2018 through Council Decision (CFSP) 2016/22381. The current budget for the Mission is 19,970,000 €.

*EUMM Georgia's Mandate and Tasks (articles 2 and 3, Council Joint Action 2008/736/ CFSP of 15 September 2008):*

### Article 2

#### Mission Statement

1. EUMM Georgia shall provide civilian monitoring of Parties' actions, including full compliance with the six-point Agreement and subsequent implementing measures throughout Georgia, working in close coordination with partners, particularly the United Nations (UN) and the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), and consistent with other EU activity, in order to contribute to stabilisation, normalisation and confidence building whilst also contributing to informing European policy in support of a durable political solution for Georgia.
2. The particular objectives of the Mission shall be:
  - (a) To contribute to long-term stability throughout Georgia and the surrounding region;
  - (b) In the short term, the stabilisation of the situation with a reduced risk of a resumption of hostilities, in full compliance with the six-point Agreement and the subsequent implementing measures.

### Article 3

#### Mission tasks

In order to achieve the Mission, the tasks of EUMM Georgia shall be to:

#### 1. Stabilisation:

Monitor, analyse and report on the situation pertaining to the stabilisation process, centred on full compliance with the six-point Agreement, including troop withdrawals, and on freedom of movement and actions by spoilers, as well as on violations of human rights and international humanitarian law.

#### 2. Normalisation:

Monitor, analyse and report on the situation pertaining to the normalisation process of civil governance, focusing on rule of law, effective law enforcement structures and adequate public order. The Mission will also monitor the security of transport links, energy infrastructures and utilities, as well as the political and security aspects of the return of internally displaced persons and refugees.

#### 3. Confidence building:

Contribute to the reduction of tensions through liaison, facilitation of contacts between parties and other confidence building measures.

#### 4. Contribute to informing European policy and to future EU engagement.

#### *EUMM Georgia's Structure and Related Agreements*

Monitors serving in the Mission come from a variety of civilian, police and military backgrounds. The Mission has its headquarters in Tbilisi and three regional Field Offices in Mtskheta and Gori, close to South Ossetia, and Zugdidi, close to Abkhazia. Monitors in each Field Office are split into three specialised teams, covering the Administrative Boundary Lines and the areas adjacent to them – monitoring issues pertaining to stabilisation, normalisation and confidence-building – compliance with the Agreements signed between the Mission and Georgian authorities, and the human security aspects of conflict management.

The implementation of the Mandate is governed by three agreements between the Mission and the Georgian government. The Provisional Arrangement for the Exchange of Information was signed between the Mission and the Georgian Ministry of Defence in January 2009 and amended in July 2010, limiting the Georgian Armed Forces' presence with troops and heavy equipment in the areas adjacent to the Administrative Boundary Lines. The Technical Arrangements signed between EUMM Georgia and the Georgian Ministry of Internal Affairs in October 2008 introduce more transparency and impose restrictions on the equipment used and the activities performed by the Georgian Police in the areas adjacent to the Administrative Boundary Lines. Finally, the Technical Agreement signed between the Mission and the State Security Service of Georgia in November 2015 provides EUMM Georgia with access to Security Service structures and personnel in the areas adjacent to the Administrative Boundary Lines. Similarly to the Arrangements with the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Technical Agreement contains a unilateral pledge by the Georgian government to impose restrictions on the activities and equipment of the State Security Service in the areas adjacent to those lines. The effectiveness of these measures, however, is

hampered by the lack of similar commitments by Russia and the breakaway regions' de facto authorities.

*Participation in the Incident Prevention and Response Mechanism*

Under an agreement reached at the Geneva International Discussions in February 2009, the parties to the conflict have established the Incident Prevention and Response Mechanism (IPRM), holding meetings between each other. EUMM Georgia participate in the IPRM, gathering regular and timely

information on the situation on the ground and sharing it with the other members to the Mechanism – the UN, OSCE, Georgia, Russia, Abkhazia and South Ossetia. Attached to the IPRM is a “Hotline” telephone system working in both theatres. The meetings have proven useful in developing a higher degree of confidence and cooperation between the parties; the Hotline as well has proven very useful for participants to quickly establish a common understanding of events surrounding specific incidents.

## **7. Other regional organisations and Georgia**

## 7. Other Regional Organisations and Georgia

In recent years, Georgia has gradually withdrawn membership of relevant regional organisations and important assistance programmes in the country have been phased out, leaving the European Union as the main Georgian partner. After entering the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) in 1993, Georgia withdrew in the wake of the 2008 Russo-Georgian war, with its membership officially terminated in August 2009; Georgia had already opted out of the CIS Council of Ministers of Defence in 2006, claiming that Georgia could not remain in that military structure while simultaneously taking steps to join NATO. Year 2008 also saw the expiration of the OSCE Mission to Georgia, established in 1992 in response to conflicts in the country and focused on preventing the re-escalation of the Abkhazian and Ossetian conflicts and aiding the Georgian government in the domains of democratisation, conflict settlement, human rights and rule of law. The OSCE remains present in the country as a co-facilitator of the Incident Prevention and Response Mechanism.

### *Georgia and NATO*

Georgia has aspired to join the North Atlantic Alliance for years, actively contributing to NATO-led operations (in Kosovo and Afghanistan) and cooperating with NATO countries in many security-related and other areas. Shortly after Georgia regained independence in 1991, the country joined the North Atlantic Cooperation Council (1992) and the Partnership for Peace (1994); dialogue and cooperation only deepened, however, after the 2003 Rose Revolution. In 2008 NATO leaders agreed that Georgia would eventually become a member state, reconfirming the decision many times since. At the Wales Summit in September 2014, a substantial package of measures was launched to strengthen Georgia's ability to defend itself and advance its preparations for membership, and further steps to help strengthen Georgia's defence capabilities were taken at the NATO Summit in Warsaw in July 2016. NATO continues to support Georgia's territorial integrity and sovereignty within its internationally recognised borders, calling on Russia to reverse its recognition of the breakaway regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia as independent states.

The NATO-Georgia Commission (NGC), created in September 2008, provides the framework for cooperation, serving as a forum for both political consultations and practical cooperation in Georgia's path towards NATO membership. Since December 2008, the work of the NGC is taken forward through the development of an Annual National Programme (ANP). The ANP lays out Georgia's concrete reform objectives and includes specific timelines and benchmarks. Key areas of cooperation under the ANP include political, military and security-sector reforms. In parallel with the establishment of the NGC, the Military Committee with Georgia was created as a format for meetings focused on military cooperation. The principal aim of NATO-Georgia military cooperation is to assist Georgia with the implementation of military and defence-related issues of the ANP, strategic planning and defence reforms, and to increase interoperability in support of Georgia's contributions to NATO-led operations. A NATO Liaison Office was established in

Georgia in 2010 to support the country's reform efforts and its programme of cooperation with NATO. Georgia also cooperates with NATO and other partner countries in a wide range of other areas through the Interoperability Platform, the Partnership for Peace (PfP) programme and the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council (EAPC).

### *Georgia and the Council of Europe*

Georgia joined the Council of Europe in 1999. Since then, the Council has been present in the country with a number of programmes aimed at strengthening democracy, human rights and the rule of law. The latest programmes to implement are laid down in the Council of Europe Action Plan for Georgia 2016-2019. The organisation and Georgian authorities have decided to limit the number of sectors for cooperation to five, in which the Council of Europe is deemed capable of providing the most added value. The first is the protection and promotion of human rights and dignity, including social rights; main goals include:

- harmonising national legislation and judicial practice in line with European standards, particularly legislation related to criminal justice;
- strengthening the capacity to tackle discrimination and protect rights and languages of people belonging to minorities;
- promoting the freedom of the media and the independence of the broadcasting regulatory body and public service broadcasters;
- improving the legal framework related to data protection and increasing the capacity of stakeholders to implement the legislation;
- enhancing the capacity of the authorities to fight violence against women and domestic violence;
- enhancing the role of Georgian schools in the promotion of democracy, human rights and the rule of law as well as in the prevention of human rights violations.

The second sector is the reform of justice, aiming at:

- assisting reforms pursuing independence, transparency, impartiality and efficiency of the justice system;
- supporting Georgia in developing a system of alternative dispute resolution;
- further enhancing the capacity to deliver judicial training to better meet the needs of current and future judges, prosecutors and lawyers;
- protecting vulnerable groups;
- fighting ill-treatment and impunity;
- further improving accountability and transparency of police operations by integrating human rights in police practice as well as developing a community policing approach and crime prevention;
- further developing the capacity to implement a rehabilitative approach in penitentiary reforms aiming to help a higher number of offenders in their reintegration into society.

The third sector is the strengthening of democratic governance, including as main purposes:

- improving the integrity, transparency and quality of the electoral process and enhancing the capacity to monitor elections;
- increasing women's participation in politics, as well as the participation of ethnic minorities and first time voters in elections;
- enhancing the capacity of media to provide professional coverage of elections;

- assisting in strengthening institutional and legal mechanisms aimed at regional and municipal development.

The fourth sector singled out by the Council of Europe focuses on countering threats to the rule of law such as corruption, money-laundering, cybercrime and sports manipulation. Eventually, the fifth domain in which the organisation plans to assist Georgia is confidence-building, developing the dialogue between non-state actors, civil society and professionals and disseminating good practices for the respect of human rights standards in the conflict-affected areas.

## **8. Other Practical Info**

## 8.1 Local Customs Cultural Awareness

### *Social Etiquette*

#### a) Meeting Etiquette

When meeting someone for the first time, shake hands while saying "gamarjoba" ("hello"). A firm handshake is acceptable in most situations. Most women will engage in a kiss, left cheek to left cheek, or two, but handshakes are common as well between strangers. Once the relationship becomes closer even Georgian men might greet each other with a kiss on the cheek.

When addressing people only close friends or family members use first names. Most people expect to be addressed with their appropriate title followed by the surname. First names can also be used followed by the word "Bat'oni" ("Sir") or "Kalbat'oni" ("Madam") to increase formality.

#### b) Gift Giving Etiquette

In Georgia gifts are usually given at birthdays, Christmas and name-days (birth date of the saint after whom a person was named). Gifts do not generally need to be expensive or elaborately wrapped. It is the act of giving the gift that is important, since it symbolises friendship. If invited to a Georgian home, bring flowers, sweets (possibly not local ones) or chocolates to the hosts. If you opt for flowers, always give an odd number of them, as even numbers are common at funerals. A small gift for the children as well is always appreciated. Gifts are not usually opened in front of the giver.

#### c) Dining Etiquette

Table manners are generally casual, the more formal the occasion, the stricter the protocol. When in doubt, watch what others are doing and emulate their behaviour. Table manners are Continental, i.e. hold the fork in the left hand and the knife in the right while eating. The oldest or most honoured guest is usually served first. It is suggested to try everything since refusing a dish might be considered rude. You will often be urged to take second helpings. Always try to finish everything on your plate and expect lively conversations during the meal.

### *Business Etiquette and Protocol*

#### a) Meeting and Greeting

Georgian businesspeople are generally less formal than in many other countries. Shake hands with everyone upon arriving and leaving: the person of higher status usually initiates the handshake. Maintain eye contact during the greeting. It is common to repeat your name while shaking hands, and polite to wait for a woman to extend her hand. Academic and professional titles are commonly used with the surname. Titles such as Mr. and Mrs. are important as well and it is best to immediately address people using them; always wait until

invited before moving to a first-name basis. Business cards are exchanged without ritual, but it is always best to treat the card with respect. Have one side of your business card translated into Georgian. If someone does not have a business card, note the information in your appointment book or portfolio.

#### b) Communication Style

Although direct communication is valued in Georgia, there is also an emphasis placed on delivering information in a sensitive manner. Often, the level of the relationship will determine how direct someone is. People's feelings tend to take precedence over facts, and it may be appreciated from someone not to convey the whole truth when speaking about bad news or sensitive information. One way in which this cultural influence is manifested is a tendency to ask questions in a negative fashion, so that the person responding may give a positive response for a negative answer.

Georgians are not afraid to express their emotions and might display anger or extreme disappointment during business discussions. This also means Georgians can be emotive speakers. When discussing a topic voices can be raised and hand gestures can increase. Direct eye contact conveys trust during a discussion; looking away or making intermittent eye contact may be misinterpreted as a sign that you are not telling the truth.

#### c) Business Meetings

It is best to show up on time at business meetings; the meeting, however, will rarely start on time. There is often small talk before the meeting actually begins; wait for your interlocutors to move to business. At the beginning of meetings introductions are the norm. These are generally made in order of seniority although women are often introduced first. Be prepared to give an overview of your background, experience and general purpose for your visit. It can also prove fruitful to send a full biography of everyone who will attend the meeting beforehand to save time and also offer a more thorough introduction.

Meeting schedules are not very rigid in Georgia. There may be an agenda, but it serves as a guideline for the discussion and acts as a springboard to other related business ideas. Interruptions are common and somewhat expected during meetings. It is best to not take this as a sign of disrespect. Meetings may continue over a lunch or dinner, with the conversation remaining focused on business or shifting to more personal topics. A first meeting is often more about seeing if working together is possible. Do not expect any final agreements to be reached on a first meeting. In most cases decisions are made at the top of a company or institution, meaning that all that your meeting can achieve is getting across the key points that will then be passed upwards to the decision maker.



## 8.2 Medical Travel Recommendations for Georgia

Medical facilities in Tbilisi are available but can be expensive. Outside Tbilisi, medical facilities are limited. Make sure you have adequate travel health insurance and accessible funds to cover the cost of any medical treatment abroad and repatriation. If you need emergency medical assistance during your trip, dial 112 and ask for an ambulance. You should contact your insurance/medical assistance company promptly if you are referred to a medical facility for treatment.

### *Recommended Vaccinations:*

- Diphtheria;
- Rabies;
- Tetanus;
- Hepatitis A;
- Hepatitis B.

### *Malaria*

Malaria is a serious and sometimes fatal disease transmitted by mosquitoes. You cannot be vaccinated against malaria. Malaria risk in Georgia is low and confined from June to October. Risk is confined to foci in the South-east of the country bordering Azerbaijan. Malaria precautions are essential. Avoid mosquito bites by covering up with clothing such as long sleeves and long trousers especially after sunset, using insect repellents on exposed skin and, when necessary, sleeping under a mosquito net. Antimalarial tablets are usually not advised. If you have been travelling in a malarious area and develop a fever seek medical attention promptly. Remember that malaria can develop even up to one year after exposure.

### *Diarrhoea*

Diseases from food and water are the leading cause of illness in travellers. Prevention consists mainly in: "Boil it, wash it, peel it, cook it... or forget it". Follow these tips for safe eating and drinking:

- wash your hands often with soap and water, especially before eating. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand gel (with at least 60% alcohol);
- drink only bottled or boiled water, or carbonated drinks in cans or bottles. Avoid tap water, fountain drinks, and ice cubes;

- make sure food is fully cooked; avoid eating fruits and vegetables unless they have been peeled or cooked.

Most episodes are self-limiting, clear up within 48 to 72 hours and do not require treatment with antibiotics. The primary goal of treating any form of diarrhoea (viral, bacterial, parasitic or non-infectious) is preventing dehydration or appropriately re-hydrating people presenting dehydration.

In particular:

- oral re-hydration solutions (ORS) or similar solutions should be used for re-hydration and absorbed in small, frequent volumes;
- an age-appropriate unrestricted diet is recommended as soon as dehydration is corrected;
- no routine laboratory tests or medications are recommended;
- anti-motility agents such as Loperamid should be considered only for adult patients who do not have a fever or bloody diarrhoea; anti-motility agents may reduce diarrhea output and cramps, but do not accelerate cure.

### *Gas Heater*

You should never go to sleep with your gas heater switched on. The pressure may drop resulting in the flame extinguishing. As a result gas will then leak from the heater. Carbon monoxide poisoning can also be a problem with old appliances.

### *Road Traffic Accidents*

Remember to:

1. wear your safety belt;
2. follow the local customs and laws regarding pedestrian safety and vehicle speed;
3. obey the rules of the road;
4. use helmets on bicycles and motorbikes;
5. avoid boarding an overloaded bus or mini-bus;
6. if not familiar with driving in Georgia, hire a trustworthy local driver;
7. do not drink and drive.

## 8.3 Other Travel Info

### *Time*

Time zone: Georgia Standard Time (UTC+4), without seasonal changes.

### *Safety and Security*

Crime levels are low, but there have been incidents of pick pocketing and burglary involving foreign nationals. There have been some reports of sexual assaults by taxi drivers after dark, although these are not thought to be targeted specifically at foreigners. You should avoid flagging down taxis in the street, and consider sitting in the back seat rather than the front. If possible, avoid travelling alone in unfamiliar areas. Take appropriate steps to enhance your personal security, remain aware of your surroundings and keep your mobile phone charged and with you at all times. If you are the victim of an attempted assault or feel threatened, contact the local police emergency number by dialling 112.

There is some risk from unexploded ordinance in areas where fighting took place in August 2008, and in military installations where Russian troops were present. It is illegal under Georgian law to enter Georgia from Russia via South Ossetia or Abkhazia as there is no official border control. If you enter Georgia in this way you may face criminal prosecution, which carries a prison sentence of up to 4 years. If your passport has entry/exit stamps from the separatist authorities the Georgian authorities may consider this as illegal entry via an unrecognised border crossing.

### *Money*

The official currency of Georgia is the Georgian Lari. US Dollars and Euros are the easiest currency to exchange in Georgia. You will need to present your passport to exchange money. You should be given a receipt. Keep the receipt as you may need to produce it if you exchange money back on departure. ATMs are also available and credit cards are used in

cities. Outside of cities you should make sure you have sufficient cash in local currency.

### *Climate*

Georgia's climate is affected by subtropical influences from the west and continental influences from the east. The Greater Caucasus range moderates local climate by serving as a barrier against cold air from the north. Warm, moist air from the Black Sea moves easily into the coastal lowlands from the west. Climatic zones are determined by distance from the Black Sea and by altitude.

Along the Black Sea coast, from Abkhazia to the Turkish border, and in the region known as the Kolkhida Lowlands inland from the coast, the dominant subtropical climate features high humidity and heavy precipitation (1,000 to 2,000 mm per year; the Black Sea port of Batumi receives 2,500 mm per year). Several varieties of palm trees grow in these regions, where the midwinter average temperature is 5 °C and the midsummer average is 22 °C.

The plains of eastern Georgia are shielded from the influence of the Black Sea by mountains that provide a more continental climate. Summer temperatures are between 20 °C and 24 °C, winter temperatures range from 2 °C to 4 °C. Humidity is lower, and rainfall ranges on average from 500 to 800 mm per year. Alpine and highland regions in the east and west, as well as a semi-arid region on the Iori Plateau to the South-east, have distinct micro-climates.

At higher elevations, precipitation is sometimes twice as heavy as in the eastern plains. In the west, the climate is subtropical until about 650 ms; above that altitude (and to the north and east) is a band of moist and moderately warm weather, then a band of cool and wet conditions. Alpine conditions begin at about 2,100 ms, and above 3,600 ms snow and ice are present year-round.

## 8.4 Radio Transmissions

The radio is not a secure means of communication as it can be listened to by practically anyone. It is useful to establish a set of simple code words, which should be known by everyone in the network. In no case should military information be transmitted.

### *Basic Rules*

Discipline: listen before transmitting. Brevity: be brief and to the point. Rhythm: use short complete phrases that make sense. Speed: not too fast, not too slow. Volume: don't shout. Preparation: know what you are going to say before transmitting.

### *Prior to transmission*

- Check the power source and cables to ensure there is a power supply.
- Check the antenna and cables ensuring a tight and correct connection to the radio set.
- Connect the audio accessories and check the functioning of switches.

### *Transmitting*

- Make your message brief but precise.
- Break the message into sensible passages with pauses between.
- Make sure no-one else is transmitting at the same time.
- When transmitting maintain a high standard of articulation, normal rhythm and moderate volume. Do not shout. Hold the microphone close to your mouth.
- Avoid excessive calling and unofficial voice procedure.

### *Four Golden Rules*

Clarity; Brevity; Security; Simplicity.

Respect these rules; your radios may be the only link to the outside world. Don't interfere with radios unless you are a trained technician. Don't use the radio like a telephone, keep transmissions short. Organize your thinking and your message before transmitting. Security matters are best dealt with by using simple code words; likewise when dealing with sensitive issues.

### *Procedure Words*

A proword is a word or phrase, which has been given a special meaning in order to speed up the handling of messages. The only authorised prowords are listed below:

Prowords explanation:

**BREAK**

I now indicate a separation of the text from other portions of the message.

**CORRECT**

You are correct, or what you have transmitted is correct.

**CORRECTION**

I have made an error in this transmission. I will continue from the last correct word.

**I SAY AGAIN**

I am repeating my transmission again.

**MESSAGE**

A message follows: prepare to copy or record it.

**MORE TO FOLLOW**

The transmitting station has additional traffic for the receiving station.

**OUT**

This is the end of my transmission to you and no answer is required.

**OVER**

This is the end of my transmission to you and a response is expected. Go ahead transmit.

**READ BACK**

Repeat this entire transmission back to me exactly as received.

**ROGER**

I have received your last transmission satisfactorily.

**SPEAK SLOWER**

You are speaking too fast. Please speak slower.

**STAND-BY**

Do not transmit until contacted: I need extra time.

**THIS IS**

Give call sign, i.e. "Delta one".

**WAIT**

I must pause for a few seconds, please wait.

**WAIT OUT**

I must pause longer than a few seconds, I will return.

**WILCO**

I have received your signal, understand it, and will comply (do not use roger and wilco together).

**WRONG**

Your last transmission was incorrect the correct version was ...

### *Phonetics*

The international phonetic alphabet listed below shall be used. Numerals shall be transmitted digit by digit except round figures such as hundreds and thousands.

Examples:

Message examples:

To give you confidence, make sure you practise using the radio before you find yourself in urgent need of using it. An example of the kind of language you must learn to use is shown right. It is an example of a radio check:

*Call*

Five - Two, Five - Two, this is Hotel - Three - Niner, Hotel - Three - Niner. Radio check. Over.

*Reply*

Hotel - Three - Niner, from Five - Two. I read you loud and clear. Over.

*Call*

Five - Two from Hotel - Three - Niner. Loud and clear. Over.

*Reply*

From Five-Two. Roger. Out.

### What to do in an emergency

Call for help as follows:

emergency. emergency. emergency.

Five-two five-two. this is hotel-three-niner, hotel-three-niner. emergency. do you copy? over. (Note: emergency is repeated three times).

Wait for response and then proceed. For a lesser degree of urgency, use the word “security” instead of “emergency”. Any station hearing an “emergency” or “security” call, should immediately stop transmitting and listen out. If you need to interrupt another radio conversation wait for a pause (immediately after you hear “over”); call: break. break. this is

hotel-three-niner, hotel-three-niner. I have an emergency. please stand by.

Pause transmission and listen to ensure the other communication has ceased, then proceed with emergency call.

12 wun too;

44 fo-wer fo-wer;

90 niner zero;

136 wun three six;

500 fi-yiv hundred;

7000 seven thousand;

16000 wun six thousand;

1278 wun too seven ate;

19A wun niner alfa

CHARACTER	MORSE CODE	TELEPHONY	PHONIC (PRONUNCIATION)
A	• —	Alfa	(AL-FAH)
B	— • • •	Brao	(BRAH-VOH)
C	— • — •	Charlie	(CHAR-LEE) or (SHAR-LEE)
D	— • •	Delta	(DELL-TAH)
E	•	Echo	(ECK-OH)
F	• • — •	Foxtrot	(FOKS-TROT)
G	— — •	Golf	(GOLF)
H	• • • •	Hotel	(HOH-TEL)
I	• •	India	(IN-DEE-AH)
J	• — — —	Juliett	(JEW-LEE-ETT)
K	— • —	Kilo	(KEY-LOH)
L	• — • •	Lim a	(LEE-MAH)
M	— —	Mike	(MIKE)
N	— •	November	(NO-VEM-BER)
O	— — —	Oscar	(OSS-CAH)
P	• — — •	Papa	(PAH-PAH)
Q	— — • —	Quebec	(KEH-BECK)
R	• — •	Romeo	(ROW-ME-OH)
S	• • •	Sierra	(SEE-AIR-RAH)
T	—	Tango	(TANG-GO)
U	• • —	Uniform	(YOU-NEE-FORM) or (OO-NEE-FORM)
V	• • • —	Victor	(VIK-TAH)
W	• — —	Whiskey	(WISS-KEY)
X	— • • —	Xray	(ECKS-RAY)
Y	— • — —	Yankee	(YANG-KEY)
Z	— — • •	Zulu	(ZOO-LOO)
1	• — — — —	One	(WUN)
2	• • — — —	Two	(TOO)
3	• • • — —	Three	(TREE)
4	• • • • —	Four	(FOW-ER)
5	• • • • •	Five	(FIFE)
6	— • • • •	Six	(SIX)
7	— — • • •	Seven	(SEV-EN)
8	— — — • •	Eight	(AIT)
9	— — — — •	Nine	(NIN-ER)
0	— — — — —	Zero	(ZEE-RO)

## **9. Useful contacts**

## 9. Useful contacts

### *Emergencies*

In case of emergency in Georgia, dial the unified emergency number, 112.

Fax: +30 210 7258886

+30 210 3734906

E-mail: [athensembassy@mfa.gov.cy](mailto:athensembassy@mfa.gov.cy)

H.E. Kyriakos Kenevezos – Ambassador  
Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary

### *Embassies*

Embassy of the Republic of Austria

Chancery:

31 Griboedov St. / 42 Rustaveli Ave. 0108, Tbilisi, Georgia

Tel.: +995 32 243 44 02

E-mail: [tiflis-ob@bmeia.gv.at](mailto:tiflis-ob@bmeia.gv.at)

H.E. Arad Benkö – Ambassador Extraordinary and  
Plenipotentiary

Embassy of the Czech Republic

Chancery:

37 Chavchavadze St., block VI, 0179, Tbilisi, Georgia (entrance  
form Abuladze St.)

Tel: +995 32 291 67 40/41/42/43

Fax: +995 32 291 6744

E-mail: [tbilisi@embassy.mzv.cz](mailto:tbilisi@embassy.mzv.cz)

Website: [www.mzv.cz/tbilisi](http://www.mzv.cz/tbilisi)

Military Office

Tel: +995 32 291 6749

Fax: +995 32 291 6744

E-mail: [dao.tbilisi@mod.gov.cz](mailto:dao.tbilisi@mod.gov.cz)

H.E. Tomáš Pernický – Ambassador Extraordinary and  
Plenipotentiary

Embassy of the Kingdom of Belgium

Chancery:

ISR Plaza, 6th floor, 69 Nizami St., 1005,

Baku, Azerbaijan

Tel: +994 12 437 37 70

Fax: +994 12 437 37 71

Mob: +994 50 301 85 59 (during office hours)

E-mail: [embassy.baku@diplomatie.fed.be](mailto:embassy.baku@diplomatie.fed.be)

Web site: <http://azerbaijan.diplomatie.belgium.be>

H.E. Bert (Karel) Schoofs – Ambassador Extraordinary and  
Plenipotentiary

Embassy of the Kingdom of Denmark

Chancery:

8 Gogolivska St., 01901, Kyiv, Ukraine

Tel: +380 44 200 12 60/62

Fax: +380 44 200 12 81

E-mail: [ievamb@um.dk](mailto:ievamb@um.dk)

Web-site: [www.ukraine.um.dk](http://www.ukraine.um.dk)

Visa Section:

Tel: +380 44 200 12 95

(Telephone consultations 12.00-13.00)

E-mail: [kievvisa@um.dk](mailto:kievvisa@um.dk)

Fax: +380 44 200 12 90

Commercial Department:

Tel: +380 44 200 12 68

Fax: +380 44 200 12 85

H.E. Ruben Madsen – Ambassador Extraordinary and  
Plenipotentiary

Embassy of the Republic of Bulgaria

Chancery:

15 Vakhtang Gorgasali Ln., 0105, Tbilisi, Georgia

Tel: +995 32 2910194/95

+995 577 233030 (for emergency calls outside office hours)

Fax: +995 32 2910270

E-mail: [embassy.tbilisi@mfa.bg](mailto:embassy.tbilisi@mfa.bg)

Web site: [www.mfa.bg/embassies/georgia](http://www.mfa.bg/embassies/georgia)

H.E. Dessislava Ivanova-Kozleva - Ambassador Extraordinary  
and Plenipotentiary

Embassy of the Republic of Croatia

Chancery:

4 Tzavela St., Neo Psychiko, 154 51,

Athens, Greece

Tel: +30 210 6777 033,

+30 210 6777 037

+30 210 6777 059 (Consular Section)

Fax: +30 210 6711 208

+30 210 6711 208 (Consular Section)

E - mail: [croath@mvep.hr](mailto:croath@mvep.hr)

Web site: <http://gr.mvep.hr/>

Mr. Zvonimir Sviben – Minister Plenipotentiary

Embassy of the Republic of Estonia

Chancery:

4 Likhauri Turn., 0171 Tbilisi, Georgia

Tel: +995 32 236 5122

Fax: +995 32 236 51 38

E-mail: [tbilisisaatkond@mfa.ee](mailto:tbilisisaatkond@mfa.ee)

Consular section:

55 Dolidze St., Saburtalo, Tbilisi

Tel: +995 32 236 5127

E-mail: [tbilisi.consular@mfa.ee](mailto:tbilisi.consular@mfa.ee)

Web-site: [www.tbilisi.vm.ee](http://www.tbilisi.vm.ee)

H.E. Kai Kaarelson – Ambassador Extraordinary and  
Plenipotentiary

Embassy of the Republic of Cyprus

Chancery:

16 Herodote St., 10675, Athens, Hellenic Republic

Tel: +30 210 3734800

+30 210 3734900

Embassy of the Republic of Finland

Chancery:

Po. Box 427, FI-00023 Valtioneuvosto

Tel: +358 9 160 55532,  
+358 295 351054  
Fax: +358 9 160 55558  
E-mail: ita-22@formin.fi  
H.E. Arja Makkonen – Ambassador Extraordinary and  
Plenipotentiary

Embassy of the French Republic  
Chancery:  
49 Krtsanisi St., 0114 Tbilisi, Georgia  
Tel: +995 32 272 14 90  
Fax: +995 32272 13 65  
E-mail: contact.tbilissi-amba@diplomatie.gouv.fr  
Web-site: www.ambafrance-ge.org  
H.E. Pascal Meunier – Ambassador Extraordinary and  
Plenipotentiary

Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany  
Chancery:  
20 Telavi St., "Sheraton Metechi Palace", Tbilisi, Georgia  
Tel: +995 32 244 7300  
Fax: +995 32 244 7364  
E-mail: info@tiflis.diplo.de  
Web-site: www.tiflis.diplo.de  
H.E. Dr. Heike Renate Peitsch – Ambassador Extraordinary and  
Plenipotentiary

Embassy of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern  
Ireland  
Chancery:  
51 Krtsanisi St., 0114 Tbilisi, Georgia  
Tel: +995 32 227 4747  
Fax: +995 32 227 4792  
E-mail: british.embassy.tbilisi@fco.gov.uk  
H.E. Justin McKenzie Smith – Ambassador Extraordinary and  
Plenipotentiary

Embassy of the Hellenic Republic  
Chancery:  
37d, T.Tabidze St., 0179, Tbilisi, Georgia  
Tel: +995 32 291 49 70-4  
Fax: +995 32 291 49 80  
E-mail: gremb.tbi@mfa.gr  
Web-site: www.mfa.gr/georgia  
Consular section: 40 Andrea Razmadze St, 0179, Tbilisi,  
Georgia  
H.E. Dimitrios Karabalis – Ambassador Extraordinary and  
Plenipotentiary

Embassy of Hungary  
Chancery:  
83 Lvovi St., 0160, Tbilisi, Georgia  
Tel: +995 32 239 90 08  
Fax: +995 32 239 90 04  
E-mail: mission.tbs@mfa.gov.hu  
H.E. Viktória Horváth – Ambassador Extraordinary and  
Plenipotentiary

Embassy of Ireland  
Chancery:  
Platinum Business Centre 26-28, Bacho Kiro St., Sofia, 1000,  
Bulgaria  
Telephone: +3592 985 34 25  
Fax: +3592 983 33 02  
E-mail: sofiaembassy@dfa.ie  
H.E. Michael Forbes – Ambassador Extraordinary and  
Plenipotentiary

Embassy of the Italian Republic  
Chancery:  
3a Chitadze St., Tbilisi, Georgia  
Tel: +995 32 299 6418,  
+995 32 292 1854  
Fax: +995 32 299 6415  
E-mail: embassy.tbilisi@esteri.it  
H.E. Antonio Enrico Bartoli – Ambassador Extraordinary and  
Plenipotentiary

Embassy of the Republic of Latvia  
Chancery:  
16 Akhmeta  
St., 0144 Tbilisi, Georgia  
Tel: +995 32 224 4858  
+995 32 238 14 06 (registration for the consular appointments)  
Fax: +995 32 238 1406  
Web-site: www.mfa.gov.lv/en/georgia  
E-mail: embassy.georgia@mfa.gov.lv  
consulate.georgia@mfa.gov.ge  
Ms. Madara Siliņa – Chargé d'affaires a.i., 3rd  
Secretary, DHM

Embassy of the Republic of Lithuania  
Chancery:  
29 Krtsanisi St., 0114, Tbilisi, Georgia  
Tel: +995 32 291 2933  
Fax: +995 32 222 1793  
E-mail: amb.ge@urm.lt  
H.E. Giedrius Puodžiūnas – Ambassador Extraordinary and  
Plenipotentiary

Embassy of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg  
Chancery:  
23A, Ave. V. Sophias & 2 Str. N. Vamva 106 74 Athens, Greece  
Telephone: +30 210 725 64 00  
Fax: +30 210 725 64 05  
Email: athenes.amb@mae.etat.lu

Embassy of the Republic of Malta  
Chancery:  
Ul Wiśniowa 40/4, 02-520 Warsaw  
Tel: +48 22 646 46 39  
Fax: +48 22 646 46 85  
Emergency Mob:  
+48 502 436 502  
Email: maltaembassy.warsaw@gov.mt

Website:  
[http://foreignaffairs.gov.mt/en/Embassies/Me\\_Warsaw/Pages/Me\\_Warsaw.aspx](http://foreignaffairs.gov.mt/en/Embassies/Me_Warsaw/Pages/Me_Warsaw.aspx)  
H.E. Natasha Meli Daudey – Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary

Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands  
Chancery:  
Pixel Center, 34 Ilia Chavchavadze Avenue, 0179 Tbilisi, Georgia (Entrance from Didim Mirtskhulava St.)  
Tel: +995 32 227 62 00/22  
Fax: +995 32 227 6232  
E-mail: [tbi@minbuza.nl](mailto:tbi@minbuza.nl)  
Web-site: <http://georgia.nlembassy.org>  
H.E. Johannes Douma – Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary

Embassy of the Republic of Poland  
Chancery:  
24 Oniashvili str., 0160, Tbilisi, Georgia  
Tel: +995 32 292 0398,  
+995 32 292 03 18  
Fax: +995 32 292 0397  
E-mail: [tbilisi.amb.sekretariat@msz.gov.pl](mailto:tbilisi.amb.sekretariat@msz.gov.pl)  
Web-site: [www.tbilisi.msz.gov.pl](http://www.tbilisi.msz.gov.pl)  
H.E. Mariusz Maszkiewicz – Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary

Embassy of the Portuguese Republic  
Chancery:  
Kırlangıç Sok. No.39, G.O.P., 06700, Ankara, Turkey  
Tel: +90 312 405 41 09  
+90 312 405 60  
28/29 (Consular Section)  
Fax: +90 312 446 3670  
+90 312 437 38 44 (Consular Section)  
E-mail: [ankara@mne.pt](mailto:ankara@mne.pt); [amboffice.ankara@mne.pt](mailto:amboffice.ankara@mne.pt)  
Web-site: [www.ancara.embaixadaportugal.mne.pt](http://www.ancara.embaixadaportugal.mne.pt)  
H.E. Paula Leal da Silva – Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary

Embassy of Romania  
Chancery:  
7 Kushitashvili (Lvovi) St., 0160, Tbilisi, Georgia  
Tel: +995 32 238 53 10  
Fax: +995 32 238 52 10  
E-mail: [tbilisi@mae.ro](mailto:tbilisi@mae.ro)  
Web-site: [www.tbilisi.mae.ro](http://www.tbilisi.mae.ro)  
H.E. Radu Liviu Horumba – Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary

Embassy of the Slovak Republic  
Chancery:  
13 Mtskheta St. apt 23, 0179 Tbilisi, Georgia  
Tel: +995 32 222 4437  
E-mail: [emb.tbilisi@mzv.sk](mailto:emb.tbilisi@mzv.sk)  
Mr. Rudolf Michalka – Chargé d'affaires

Embassy of the Republic of Slovenia  
Chancery:  
48 B. Khmelnicki St., Kyiv, Ukraine  
Tel: +380 44 585 23 31 / 32  
Fax: +380 44 585 23 43  
E-mail: [sloembassy.kyiv@gov.si](mailto:sloembassy.kyiv@gov.si)  
Web: [www.kiev.embassy.si](http://www.kiev.embassy.si)  
H.E. Nataša Prah – Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary

Embassy of the Kingdom of Spain  
Chancery:  
8 Abdullah Cevdet St., 06680 Çankaya, Ankara, Turkey  
Tel: +90 312 438 0392,  
+90 312 440 2169,  
+90 312 440 1796  
Fax: +90 312 439 5170,  
+90 312 442 6991  
+90 312 440 3327 (Consular Section)  
E-mail: [emb.ankara@maec.es](mailto:emb.ankara@maec.es)  
Office of the Counsellor (Interior):  
No. 3/9 İkizdere St., G.O.P.  
Tel: + 90 312 447 68 40 Fax:  
+90 312 448 07 71  
E-mail: [conintank@gmail.com](mailto:conintank@gmail.com)

Istanbul: 16 Karanfil Aralığı St., Levent, 34330, Istanbul  
Tel: +90 212 278 17 16  
Fax: +90 212 278 16 26  
Email: [jlguzman@mir.es](mailto:jlguzman@mir.es)  
Office of the Commercial Counsellor:  
And Sokak No. 8/14-15, 06680 Çankaya  
Tel: +90 312 468 70 47 pbx,  
Fax: +90 312 468 69 75  
E-mail: [ankara@comercio.mineco.es](mailto:ankara@comercio.mineco.es)  
H.E. Rafael Mendiivil Peydro – Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary

Embassy of Sweden  
Chancery:  
15 Kipshidze St., 0621, Tbilisi, Georgia  
Tel: +995 32 255 0320  
Fax: +995 32 222 4890  
E-mail: [ambassaden.tbilisi@gov.se](mailto:ambassaden.tbilisi@gov.se)  
Web-site: [www.swedenanroad.com/tbilisi](http://www.swedenanroad.com/tbilisi)  
[www.facebook.com/EmbassyOfSwedenInTbilisi](https://www.facebook.com/EmbassyOfSwedenInTbilisi)  
[www.twitter.com/swedeninGe](https://www.twitter.com/swedeninGe)  
H.E. Martina Quick – Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary

Delegation of the European Union  
Chancery:  
38 Nino Chkeidze St. Tbilisi, 0102, Georgia  
Tel: +995 32 294 3763  
Fax: +995 32 294 3768  
E-mail: [delegation-georgia@eeas.europa.eu](mailto:delegation-georgia@eeas.europa.eu)  
Web-site: <http://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/georgia>  
Office of the Ambassador, Head of Delegation: H.E. Janos Herman – Ambassador, Head of Delegation



### *International Organisations*

#### European Bank for Reconstruction and Development

##### Chancery:

Merani Business Center, 6<sup>th</sup> floor, 31a Griboedov St, 0108 Tbilisi, Georgia

Tel: +995 32 244 74 00

Fax: +995 32 292 05 12

E-mail: [martikil@ebrd.com](mailto:martikil@ebrd.com)

Mr. Bruno Balvanera – Regional Director

#### International Committee of the Red Cross

##### Chancery:

24 Mosashvili St, 0162 Tbilisi, Georgia

Tel: +995 32 235 55 10

Fax: +995 32 235 55 20

E-mail: [tbilisi@icrc.org](mailto:tbilisi@icrc.org)

Web-site: [www.icrc.org](http://www.icrc.org)

Ms. Biljana Milosevic – Head of Delegation

#### International Monetary Fund

##### Chancery:

4 Freedom Square, GMT Plaza, 0105, Tbilisi, Georgia

Tel: +995 322 92 04 32/33/34

Fax: +995 322 92 04 35

E-mail: [kdanelia@imf.org](mailto:kdanelia@imf.org)

Web-site: [www.imf.org](http://www.imf.org)

Mr. Francois Painchaud – Resident Representative

#### International Organization for Migration

##### Chancery:

12 Abuladze st. First Lane (dead end), 0162 Tbilisi, Georgia

Tel: +995 32 225 22 16

Fax: +995 32 225 22 17

E-mail: [iomtbilisi@iom.int](mailto:iomtbilisi@iom.int)

Ms. Ilyana Derilova-Stoykova – Chief of Mission

#### NATO Liaison Office

##### Chancery:

162 Tsinamdzgvrishvili St., 0105, Tbilisi, Georgia

Tel: +995 32 93 38 01

E-mail: [khutsishvili.khatuna@hq.nato.int](mailto:khutsishvili.khatuna@hq.nato.int)

[modebadze.nino@hq.nato.int](mailto:modebadze.nino@hq.nato.int)

Ms. Rosaria Puglisi – Head of Mission

#### United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

##### Chancery:

9 Eristavi St. Tbilisi, Georgia

Tel: +995 32 223 23 88;

+995 32 225 11 26;

Fax: +995 32 225 02 71/72 (-148)

E-mail: [tbilisi@unicef.org](mailto:tbilisi@unicef.org)

Web-site: [www.unicef.org/georgia/](http://www.unicef.org/georgia/)

Ms. Laila Omar Gad – Representative

#### United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

Regional Office in South Caucasus (Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia) (UNHCR)

##### Chancery:

2a Kazbegi Ave., Tbilisi, Georgia

Tel: +995 32 228 2825,

+995 32 238 6202,

+995 32 277 9612,

+995 32 225 00 78/79/80

Fax: +995 32 238 5422

E-mail: [geotb@unhcr.org](mailto:geotb@unhcr.org)

Mr. Johannes Van der Klaauw – Regional Representative

#### United Nations Office/United Nations Development Office

##### Chancery:

9 Eristavi St., 0179, Tbilisi, Georgia

Tel: +995 32 225 1126

Fax: +995 32 225 0272

E-mail: [registry.ge@undp.org](mailto:registry.ge@undp.org)

Web-site: [www.ge.undp.org](http://www.ge.undp.org)

Mr. Niels David Scott – United Nations Resident Coordinator,  
UNDP Resident representative, UNFPA Representative

#### World Bank Country Office

##### Chancery:

5a Nino Ramishvili St., Tbilisi, Georgia

Tel: +995 32 291 30 96,

+995 32 291 26 89/59,

+995 32 291 34 78,

+995 32 291 24 36,

+995 32 291 23 56

Fax: +995 32 291 34 78

E-mail: [mduishvili@worldbank.org](mailto:mduishvili@worldbank.org)

Ms. Mercy Tembon – Regional Director for the South Caucasus

## Sources

### Country Profile

#### Country in Brief

- Government of Georgia, [http://gov.ge/index.php?lang\\_id=ENG&sec\\_id=193](http://gov.ge/index.php?lang_id=ENG&sec_id=193)
- UN Data, <http://data.un.org/en/iso/ge.html>
- CIA World Factbook <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/gg.html>

#### Modern and Contemporary History of Georgia

- BBC, [www.bbc.com](http://www.bbc.com)
- BTI 2016, Georgia Country Report, [https://www.bti-project.org/fileadmin/files/BTI/Downloads/Reports/2016/pdf/BTI\\_2016\\_Georgia.pdf](https://www.bti-project.org/fileadmin/files/BTI/Downloads/Reports/2016/pdf/BTI_2016_Georgia.pdf)
- Government of Georgia, [http://gov.ge/index.php?lang\\_id=ENG&sec\\_id=193](http://gov.ge/index.php?lang_id=ENG&sec_id=193)

#### Geography

- Government of Georgia, [http://gov.ge/index.php?lang\\_id=ENG&sec\\_id=193](http://gov.ge/index.php?lang_id=ENG&sec_id=193)
- CIA World Factbook <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/gg.html>

#### Territorial and Administrative Units

- Government of Georgia, [http://gov.ge/index.php?lang\\_id=ENG&sec\\_id=193](http://gov.ge/index.php?lang_id=ENG&sec_id=193)
- CIA World Factbook <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/gg.html>

#### Population

- National Statistics Office of Georgia, <http://www.geostat.ge/index.php?action=0&lang=eng>

#### Ethnic Groups, Languages, Religion

- CIA World Factbook <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/gg.html>

#### Health

- World Health Organisation, <http://www.who.int/en/>

#### Education and literacy

- UNESCO, <https://en.unesco.org/>

#### Country Economy

- Economist Intelligence Unit, <http://www.eiu.com/home.aspx>
- National Statistics Office of Georgia, <http://www.geostat.ge/index.php?action=0&lang=eng>
- World Bank, <https://data.worldbank.org/>

### Political and Security Context

#### The Constitution of Georgia

- BTI 2016, Georgia Country Report, [https://www.bti-project.org/fileadmin/files/BTI/Downloads/Reports/2016/pdf/BTI\\_2016\\_Georgia.pdf](https://www.bti-project.org/fileadmin/files/BTI/Downloads/Reports/2016/pdf/BTI_2016_Georgia.pdf)
- CIA World Factbook <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/gg.html>
- Economist Intelligence Unit, <http://www.eiu.com/home.aspx>

#### Elections

- OSCE/ODIHR, <http://www.osce.org/odihr>
- Georgia Central Electoral Commission, <https://results20171021.cec.gov.ge/eng/>

#### Political Parties

- Wikipedia, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Main\\_Page](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Main_Page)

#### Key Political Leaders

- BBC, [www.bbc.com](http://www.bbc.com)
- Forbes, <https://www.forbes.com/>
- The Economist, <https://www.economist.com/>

#### Media Landscape and Civil Society

- Lutsevych, O., 'How to Finish a Revolution: Civil Society and Democracy in Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine', in Chatham House, *Briefing Paper*, January 2013 [http://fride.org/download/WP\\_124\\_Civic\\_awakening.pdf](http://fride.org/download/WP_124_Civic_awakening.pdf)
- BBC, [www.bbc.com](http://www.bbc.com)
- BTI 2016, Georgia Country Report, [https://www.bti-project.org/fileadmin/files/BTI/Downloads/Reports/2016/pdf/BTI\\_2016\\_Georgia.pdf](https://www.bti-project.org/fileadmin/files/BTI/Downloads/Reports/2016/pdf/BTI_2016_Georgia.pdf)
- Amnesty International, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/>
- Human Rights Watch, <https://www.hrw.org/>

#### Security Sector

- BBC, [www.bbc.com](http://www.bbc.com)
- State Security Service, <http://ssg.gov.ge/en>
- Georgian Intelligence Service, <https://www.gis.gov.ge/iinfo/en/5>
- Alapishvili, L., 'Georgia's Security Sector Review Project', USAID Final Report, 2014
- Simons, G., 'Security Sector Reform and Georgia: the European Union's Challenge in Southern Caucasus', *European Security*, 21, 2, pp. 272-293, April 2012

### Law Enforcement Structures and Actors

#### The Police

- Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia, <http://police.ge/en/home>

#### Security Actors

- Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia, <http://police.ge/en/home>
- State Security Service, <http://ssg.gov.ge/en>
- Georgian Intelligence Service, <https://www.gis.gov.ge/iinfo/en/5>

#### The Judiciary

- High Council of Justice, <http://hcoj.gov.ge/en/home>
- Prosecutor's Office of Georgia, <http://pog.gov.ge/eng/about/work>
- Supreme Court of Georgia, <http://www.supremecourt.ge/eng/>
- Tchiabrishvili, A., 'Judiciary in a Vicious Circle', ISFED Policy Paper, September 2017

### Migrations and Human Rights issues

#### Internal and International Migration

- IDMC, <http://www.internal-displacement.org/>
- Human Rights Watch, <https://www.hrw.org/>
- Amnesty International, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/>
- UNHCR, <http://www.unhcr.org/>

#### Human Rights Situation

- Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/pages/home.aspx>
- Human Rights Watch, <https://www.hrw.org/>
- Amnesty International, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/>

## The UN and Georgia

The UN and Georgia

- UN, <https://www.un.org/>

## The EU - Georgia Relations

- EU, <https://europa.eu/>
- EU Delegation to Georgia, [https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/georgia\\_en](https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/georgia_en)
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia, <http://mfa.gov.ge/Home.aspx?lang=en-US>

EUMM Georgia

- EUMM Georgia, <http://www.eumm.eu/>

## Other Regional Organisations and Georgia

OSCE and Georgia

- OSCE, <http://www.osce.org/>

NATO and Georgia

- NATO, <https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/index.htm>

Council of Europe and Georgia

- Council of Europe Office in Georgia, <https://www.coe.int/en/web/tbilisi>

## Travel Advice & Other Practical Info

- Government of Georgia, [http://gov.ge/index.php?lang\\_id=ENG&sec\\_id=193](http://gov.ge/index.php?lang_id=ENG&sec_id=193)
- Government of the United Kingdom, <https://www.gov.uk/>
- Commisceo Global, <https://www.commisceo-global.com/>
- Culture Crossing Guide, <http://guide.culturecrossing.net/index.php>
- Wikipedia, 'Geography of Georgia (country)', [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Geography\\_of\\_Georgia\\_\(country\)#Climate](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Geography_of_Georgia_(country)#Climate)

## Useful contacts

- Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia, <http://mfa.gov.ge/Home.aspx?lang=en-US>

# Bibliography

## CIS and Georgia

Pravda.ru, 'Georgia opts out of ex-Soviet military cooperation body', 03 February 2006, <http://www.pravdareport.com/news/world/03-02-2006/75406-georgia-0/>

## Constitutional Law

Constitution of Georgia, text provided by the Georgian Parliament, available at: <http://www.parliament.ge/uploads/other/28/28803.pdf>  
CIA, 'World Factbook. Georgia', <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/gg.html>  
The Economist Intelligence Unit, 'Georgia', <http://country.eiu.com/Georgia/ArticleList/Analysis/Politics>

## Council of Europe and Georgia

Council of Europe, 'Action Plan for Georgia 2016-2019', <https://rm.coe.int/1680642886>  
Council of Europe Office in Georgia, 'Programmes in Georgia', <https://www.coe.int/en/web/tbilisi/field-office-information/projects-programmes>

## Economics

BTI 2016, 'Georgia Country Report', [https://www.bti-project.org/fileadmin/files/BTI/Downloads/Reports/2016/pdf/BTI\\_2016\\_Georgia.pdf](https://www.bti-project.org/fileadmin/files/BTI/Downloads/Reports/2016/pdf/BTI_2016_Georgia.pdf)  
National Statistics Office of Georgia, <http://www.geostat.ge/index.php?action=0&lang=eng>  
World Bank, 'Georgia', <http://www.worldbank.org/en/country/georgia>

## Education

UNESCO, 'Georgia', <https://en.unesco.org/countries/georgia>

## Elections

OSCE, 'Georgia. Presidential Election 27 October 2013 - OSCE/ ODIHR Election Observation Mission Final Report', 16 January 2014, <https://www.osce.org/odihr/elections/110301?download=true>  
OSCE, 'Georgia. Parliamentary Elections, 08 October and 30 October (second round) 2016 - OSCE/ ODIHR Election Observation Mission Final Report', 03 February 2017, <https://www.osce.org/odihr/elections/georgia/297551?download=true>  
Wikipedia, 'Georgian Parliamentary Election, 2016', [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Georgian\\_parliamentary\\_election,\\_2016](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Georgian_parliamentary_election,_2016)  
Wikipedia, 'Georgian Presidential Election, 2013', [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Georgian\\_presidential\\_election%2C\\_2013](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Georgian_presidential_election%2C_2013)

## EU and Georgia

### Overview

Association Agenda between the European Union and Georgia 2017-2020, [https://eeas.europa.eu/sites/eeas/files/annex\\_ii\\_-\\_eu-georgia\\_association\\_agenda\\_text.pdf](https://eeas.europa.eu/sites/eeas/files/annex_ii_-_eu-georgia_association_agenda_text.pdf)  
Delegation of the European Union to Georgia, [https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/georgia\\_en](https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/georgia_en)  
Delegation of the European Union to Georgia, 'Georgia and the EU', [https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/georgia\\_en](https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/georgia_en)  
European Commission, 'Trade. Georgia', <http://ec.europa.eu/trade/policy/countries-and-regions/countries/georgia/>

European Union Monitoring Mission in Georgia, 'Factsheet', [https://www.eumm.eu/data/image\\_db\\_innova/EUMM%20Factsheet%20ENG%202018%20JAN.pdf](https://www.eumm.eu/data/image_db_innova/EUMM%20Factsheet%20ENG%202018%20JAN.pdf)

### Establishment of EUMM Georgia

Council Joint Action 2008/736/CFSP of 15 September 2008 on the European Union Monitoring Mission in Georgia, EUMM Georgia, <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2008:248:0026:0031:EN:PDF>

### EU-Georgia Association Agreement:

EU-Georgia Association Agreement, 30/08/2014, [https://eeas.europa.eu/sites/eeas/files/association\\_agreement.pdf](https://eeas.europa.eu/sites/eeas/files/association_agreement.pdf)

## Health

World Health Organisation, 'Georgia Health Profile', <http://www.who.int/countries/geo/en/>  
World Health Organisation, 'Georgia: WHO Statistical Profile', <http://www.who.int/gho/countries/geo.pdf?ua=1>

## Human Rights

Amnesty International, 'Georgia 2017/2018', <https://www.amnesty.org/en/countries/europe-and-central-asia/georgia/report-georgia/>  
European Court of Human Rights, 'Georgia', [https://www.echr.coe.int/Documents/CP\\_Georgia\\_ENG.pdf](https://www.echr.coe.int/Documents/CP_Georgia_ENG.pdf)  
Human Rights Watch, 'Georgia. Events of 2017', <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2018/country-chapters/georgia>  
Freedom House, 'Georgia. Country Profile', <https://freedomhouse.org/report/nations-transit/2017/georgia>  
IDMC, 'Five years on from the Georgia-Russia war: Georgian IDPs still in need', <http://www.internal-displacement.org/library/expert-opinion/2013/five-years-on-from-the-georgia-russia-war-georgian-idps-still-in-need>  
IDMC, 'Georgia', <http://www.internal-displacement.org/countries/georgia>  
IOM, 'Georgia', <https://www.iom.int/countries/georgia#mepmm>  
OHCHR, 'Georgia', <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/countries/ENACARRegion/Pages/GEIndex.aspx>  
OHCHR, 'Ratification Status for Georgia', [http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/\\_layouts/TreatyBodyExternal/Treaty.aspx?CountryID=65&Lang=EN](http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/TreatyBodyExternal/Treaty.aspx?CountryID=65&Lang=EN)  
OHCHR, 'Report of the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons on his mission to Georgia', 04 April 2017, [http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Countries/UA/UAREport20th\\_EN.pdf](http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Countries/UA/UAREport20th_EN.pdf)

## Law Enforcement

Georgian Intelligence Service, <https://www.gis.gov.ge/info/en/5HighCouncilofJusticeofGeorgia>, <http://hcoj.gov.ge/en/about/history-of-hcoj>  
Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia, <http://police.ge/en/home>  
Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia, 'Innovations and Achievements', 2013, [http://police.ge/files/\\_news\\_images/2013-09-12-5480/broshura.pdf](http://police.ge/files/_news_images/2013-09-12-5480/broshura.pdf)  
NPR, 'Georgia's National Police Corruption Project', <https://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=4849472>  
Prosecutor's Office of Georgia, <http://pog.gov.ge/eng/about/work>  
State Security Service, <http://ssg.gov.ge/en>  
Supreme Court of Georgia, <http://www.supremecourt.ge/eng/structure/>  
Tchiabrishvili, A., 'Judiciary in a Vicious Circle', ISFED Policy Paper, September 2017  
Tutberidze, M., 'Independent Anti-corruption Agency – Georgia and International Standards', IDFI Paper, June 2017, [https://idfi.ge/public/upload/IDFI\\_Photos\\_2017/anticorruption/Independent%20Anti-Corruption%20Body%20-%20IDFI%20-%20Policy%20Doc%20-%20ENG.pdf](https://idfi.ge/public/upload/IDFI_Photos_2017/anticorruption/Independent%20Anti-Corruption%20Body%20-%20IDFI%20-%20Policy%20Doc%20-%20ENG.pdf)

Wikipedia, 'Georgian Special Operations Forces',  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Georgian\\_Special\\_Operations\\_Forces](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Georgian_Special_Operations_Forces)

## NATO and Georgia

NATO, 'Relations with Georgia',  
[https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natolive/topics\\_38988.htm](https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natolive/topics_38988.htm)

## OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Georgia

OSCE, 'OSCE Mission to Georgia (closed)', <https://www.osce.org/georgia-closed>

## Political Parties

Wikipedia, 'Georgian Dream', [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Georgian\\_Dream](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Georgian_Dream)  
Wikipedia, 'United National Movement (Georgia)',  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United\\_National\\_Movement\\_\(Georgia\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_National_Movement_(Georgia))  
Wikipedia, 'Movement for Liberty – European Georgia',  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Movement\\_for\\_Liberty\\_-\\_European\\_Georgia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Movement_for_Liberty_-_European_Georgia)  
Wikipedia, 'Alliance of Patriots of Georgia',  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alliance\\_of\\_Patriots\\_of\\_Georgia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alliance_of_Patriots_of_Georgia)  
Wikipedia, 'Industry Will Save Georgia',  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Industry\\_Will\\_Save\\_Georgia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Industry_Will_Save_Georgia)

## Political Leaders

BBC, 'Georgia Profile – Leaders', 7 December 2016,  
<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-17303293>  
BBC, 'Profile – President Mikheil Saakashvili of Georgia', 27 September 2012,  
<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-19740960>  
BBC, 'Will Mikheil Saakashvili bounce back?', 7 November 2016,  
<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-37900773>  
Forbes, 'Profile: Bidzina Ivanishvili', <https://www.forbes.com/profile/bidzina-ivanishvili/>  
Wikipedia, 'Mikheil Saakashvili',  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mikheil\\_Saakashvili](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mikheil_Saakashvili)

## Recent History

BBC, 'Georgia Country Profile', 01 March 2018,  
<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-17301647>  
BBC, 'Georgia Profile – Timeline', 01 March 2018,  
<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-17303471>  
BBC, 'Georgia Profile – Media', 12 August 2015,  
<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-17303294>  
BBC, 'Abkhazia Profile', 10 August 2017, <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-18175030>  
BBC, 'South Ossetia Profile', 21 April 2016, <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-18269210>  
BTI 2016, 'Georgia Country Report', [https://www.bti-project.org/fileadmin/files/BTI/Downloads/Reports/2016/pdf/BTI\\_2016\\_Georgia.pdf](https://www.bti-project.org/fileadmin/files/BTI/Downloads/Reports/2016/pdf/BTI_2016_Georgia.pdf)  
Council of the European Union, 'Press Release. Extraordinary Meeting', 13 August 2008,  
[http://eeas.europa.eu/archives/delegations/georgia/documents/eu\\_georgia/13august2008\\_en.pdf](http://eeas.europa.eu/archives/delegations/georgia/documents/eu_georgia/13august2008_en.pdf)  
Government of Georgia, 'About Georgia', [http://gov.ge/index.php?lang\\_id=ENG&sec\\_id=193](http://gov.ge/index.php?lang_id=ENG&sec_id=193)  
The Economist, 'No change for the better', 12 October 2013,  
<https://www.economist.com/news/europe/21587829-georgia-appears-have-moved-backwards-under-bidzina-ivanishvili-no-change-better>

## Security Sector

Law of Georgia on Occupied Territories, 23/10/2008,  
<https://matsne.gov.ge/en/document/view/19132>  
Georgian Intelligence Service, <https://www.gis.gov.ge/iinfo/en/5>  
State Security Service, <http://ssg.gov.ge/en>

Alapishvili, L., 'Georgia's Security Sector Review Project', USAID Final Report, 2014  
Simons, G., 'Security Sector Reform and Georgia: the European Union's Challenge in Southern Caucasus', *European Security*, 21, 2, pp. 272-293, April 2012

## United Nations and Georgia

Source: <http://www.securitycouncilreport.org/un-documents/georgia/>

### Selected Security Council Resolutions

13 FEBRUARY 2009 S/RES/1866  
*This was the resolution extending the mandate of the UN Observer Mission in Georgia (UNOMIG) until 15 June.*

09 OCTOBER 2008 S/RES/1839  
*This was the resolution extending UNOMIG's mandate on a technical basis for four months until 15 February 2009 as recommended by the Secretary-General in his 3 October report.*

15 MAY 2008 S/RES/1808  
*This resolution extended the mandate of UNOMIG until 15 October 2008.*

### Selected Secretary-General's Reports

18 MAY 2009 S/2009/254  
*This was the report asked for in resolution 1866 on recommendations for future activities of the mission.*

10 MARCH 2009 S/2009/69/Corr.1  
*This was the corrigendum of the report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Abkhazia, Georgia.*

3 FEBRUARY 2009 S/2009/69  
*This was the report on of the Secretary-General on the situation in Abkhazia, Georgia.*  
*Selected Security Council Letters*

19 AUGUST 2008 S/2008/561  
*This was the letter from France requesting a meeting of the Council on 19 August.*

16 AUGUST 2008 S/2008/562  
*This was the letter from Georgia on events occurring during the conflict.*

15 AUGUST 2008 S/2008/557  
*This letter contained the appeal of the parliament of Georgia to the international community.*

### Selected Security Council Meeting Records

15 JUNE 2009 S/PV.6143  
*This was the Council debate on the Secretary-General's report on the situation in Georgia.*

28 AUGUST 2008 S/PV.5969  
*The Council was briefed by Elizabeth Spehar, Director of the Americas and Europe Division and Officer-in-Charge of the Department of Political Affairs.*

19 AUGUST 2008 S/PV.5961  
*This was the meeting on 19 August at the request of Georgia.*

### Selected Other Documents

14 JUNE 2009 S/2009/310  
*This was the Russian-vetoed Security Council resolution that had asked for a two-week extension of UNOMIG's mandate to allow more time for negotiations on a new security regime in the region.*

## Partnership Frameworks

UN, United Nations Partnership for Sustainable Development (Framework Document): Georgia 2016-2020, 2016,  
<http://ungeorgia.ge/uploads/UNGeorgia.pdf>

## Other Information

United Nations in Georgia,  
[http://www.ungeorgia.ge/eng/UN\\_in\\_Georgia/georgia\\_and\\_united\\_nations#.WqO7iXzSLIW](http://www.ungeorgia.ge/eng/UN_in_Georgia/georgia_and_united_nations#.WqO7iXzSLIW)

United Nations in Georgia, 'UN Agencies in Georgia',  
[http://www.ungeorgia.ge/eng/UN\\_in\\_Georgia/un\\_agencies#.WqO\\_mnzSLIW](http://www.ungeorgia.ge/eng/UN_in_Georgia/un_agencies#.WqO_mnzSLIW)

## Online References

Government of Georgia: [http://gov.ge/index.php?lang\\_id=ENG&sec\\_id=1](http://gov.ge/index.php?lang_id=ENG&sec_id=1)  
Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia, <http://police.ge/en/home>  
State Security Service, <http://ssg.gov.ge/en>  
Georgian Intelligence Service, <https://www.gis.gov.ge/iinfo/en/5>  
High Council of Justice, <http://hcoj.gov.ge/en/home>  
Prosecutor's Office of Georgia, <http://pog.gov.ge/eng/about/work>  
Supreme Court of Georgia, <http://www.supremecourt.ge/eng/>

EUMM Georgia: <https://www.eumm.eu/>  
European Commission: [www.ec.europa.eu](http://www.ec.europa.eu)  
European Council: [www.european-council.europa.eu](http://www.european-council.europa.eu)  
Council of the European Union: [www.consilium.europa.eu](http://www.consilium.europa.eu)  
European Union External Action Service: [www.eeas.europa.eu](http://www.eeas.europa.eu)  
EuropeAid: [www.ec.europa.eu/europeaid/](http://www.ec.europa.eu/europeaid/)

European Union Neighbourhood Policy: [www.ec.europa.eu/world/enp/](http://www.ec.europa.eu/world/enp/)  
Frontex European Union Agency: [www.frontex.europa.eu](http://www.frontex.europa.eu)

United Nations: [www.un.org](http://www.un.org)  
United Nations Security Council: [www.un.org/en/sc/](http://www.un.org/en/sc/)  
United Nations General Assembly: [www.un.org/en/ga/](http://www.un.org/en/ga/)  
United Nations Department of Political Affairs: [www.un.org/wcm/content/site/undpa/](http://www.un.org/wcm/content/site/undpa/)  
United Nations Development Programme: [www.undp.org](http://www.undp.org)  
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization: [www.unesco.org](http://www.unesco.org)  
United Nations Children's Fund: [www.unesco.org](http://www.unesco.org)  
United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights: [www.ohchr.org](http://www.ohchr.org)  
United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees: [www.unhcr.org](http://www.unhcr.org)

Amnesty International: [www.amnesty.org](http://www.amnesty.org)  
Human Rights Watch: [www.hrw.org](http://www.hrw.org)

International Organisation for Migration: [www.iom.int](http://www.iom.int)  
North Atlantic Treaty Organization: [www.nato.int](http://www.nato.int)  
WorldBank: [www.worldbank.org](http://www.worldbank.org)  
International Monetary Fund: [www.imf.org](http://www.imf.org)

Library of Congress: [www.loc.gov/](http://www.loc.gov/)  
BBC: [www.bbc.co.uk](http://www.bbc.co.uk)  
First Channel: <https://1tv.ge/en>  
Rustavi: <http://rustavi2.ge/en>

## **Annex**

# Council Joint Action 2008/736/CFSP

L 248/26 Official Journal of the European Union, 17/09/2008

## COUNCIL JOINT ACTION 2008/736/CFSP

15 September 2008

on the European Union Monitoring Mission in Georgia, EUMM Georgia

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty on European Union, and in particular Article 14 and the third paragraph of Article 25 thereof,

Whereas:

(1) On 1 September 2008, the European Council expressed its grave concern at the open conflict which had broken out in Georgia, and expressed the readiness of the European Union (EU) to commit itself to support every effort to secure a peaceful and lasting solution to the conflict.

(2) The European Council recalled that a peaceful and lasting solution to the conflict in Georgia must be based on full respect for the principles of independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity recognised by international law, the Final Act of the Helsinki Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe and United Nations Security Council resolutions.

(3) The six-point Agreement achieved on 12 August 2008 on the basis of the EU's mediation efforts, as supplemented by the Agreement reached on 8 September 2008 for its implementation, remains the basis for the stabilisation process.

(4) The European Council also recalled on 1 September 2008 that the appointment in December 2003 of an EU Special Representative (EUSR) for the South Caucasus was a further step in the deepening of relations with Georgia and the other two countries of the region (Armenia and Azerbaijan). The European Council decided that, in addition, an EUSR for the crisis in Georgia should be appointed.

(5) On 2 September 2008, an exploratory mission was deployed to Georgia and began operating in view of gathering relevant information and preparing a possible civilian European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP) Mission. This should take full regard of and act in complementarity with the mandates of the existing presences of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the United Nations in Georgia.

(6) On 3 September 2008, the Council approved a preparatory measure for a possible future ESDP Mission in Georgia.

(7) In a letter dated 11 September 2008, the Government of Georgia invited the EU to deploy an ESDP civilian monitoring mission in Georgia.

(8) Any third State's participation in the Mission should be in accordance with the general guidelines defined by the European Council.

(9) The command and control structure of the Mission should be without prejudice to the contractual responsibility of the Head of Mission towards the Commission for implementing the budget of the Mission.

(10) The Watch-Keeping Capability established within the General Secretariat of the Council should be activated for this Mission.

(11) The ESDP Mission will be conducted in the context of a situation which may deteriorate and could harm the objectives of the Common Foreign and Security Policy as set out in Article 11 of the Treaty,

HAS ADOPTED THIS JOINT ACTION:

### Article 1

#### The Mission

1. The European Union (EU) hereby establishes a European Union Monitoring Mission in Georgia, hereinafter referred to as 'EUMM Georgia'. EUMM Georgia shall be deployed in phases, with deployment beginning in September 2008 and the operational phase beginning no later than 1 October 2008.

2. EUMM Georgia shall operate in accordance with the mission statement as set out in Article 2 and shall carry out the tasks as set out in Article 3.

### Article 2

#### Mission statement

1. EUMM Georgia shall provide civilian monitoring of Parties' actions, including full compliance with the six-point Agreement and subsequent implementing measures throughout Georgia, working in close coordination with partners, particularly the United Nations (UN) and the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), and consistent with other EU activity, in order to contribute to stabilisation, normalisation and confidence building whilst also

contributing to informing European policy in support of a durable political solution for Georgia.

2. The particular objectives of the Mission shall be:

(a) to contribute to long-term stability throughout Georgia and the surrounding region;

(b) in the short term, the stabilisation of the situation with a reduced risk of a resumption of hostilities, in full compliance with the six-point Agreement and the subsequent implementing measures.

### Article 3

#### Mission tasks

In order to achieve the Mission, the tasks of EUMM Georgia shall be to:

1. Stabilisation:

Monitor, analyse and report on the situation pertaining to the stabilisation process, centred on full compliance with the six-point Agreement, including troop withdrawals, and on freedom of movement and actions by spoilers, as well as on violations of human rights and international humanitarian law.

2. Normalisation:

Monitor, analyse and report on the situation pertaining to the normalisation process of civil governance, focusing on rule of law, effective law enforcement structures and adequate public order. The Mission will also monitor the security of transport links, energy infrastructures and utilities, as well as the political and security aspects of the return of internally displaced persons and refugees.

3. Confidence building:

Contribute to the reduction of tensions through liaison, facilitation of contacts between parties and other confidence building measures.

4. Contribute to informing European policy and to future EU engagement.

### Article 4

#### Structure of the Mission

1. EUMM Georgia shall be structured as follows:

(a) Headquarters (HQ). The HQ shall consist of the Office of the Head of Mission and the HQ Staff, providing all necessary functions of command and control and mission support. The HQ shall be located in Tbilisi.

(b) Field Offices. Geographically distributed Field Offices shall conduct monitoring tasks and provide necessary functions of mission support.

(c) Support Element. The Support Element shall be located within the General Secretariat of the Council in Brussels.

2. As an initial enabling capability, monitoring teams of pre-equipped components provided by the Member States shall be established within EUMM Georgia.

3. The above elements shall be subject to further detailed arrangements in the Operation Plan (OPLAN).

### Article 5

#### Civilian Operation Commander

1. The Civilian Planning and Conduct Capability (CPCC) Director shall be the Civilian Operation Commander for EUMM Georgia.

2. The Civilian Operation Commander, under the political control and strategic direction of the Political and Security Committee (PSC) and the overall authority of the Secretary-General/High Representative (SG/HR), shall exercise command and control of EUMM Georgia at the strategic level.

3. The Civilian Operation Commander shall ensure proper and effective implementation of the Council's decisions as well as the PSC's decisions, including by issuing instructions at the strategic level as required to the Head of Mission and providing him with advice and technical support.

4. All seconded staff shall remain under the full command of the national authorities of the seconding State or EU institution concerned. National authorities shall transfer Operational Control (OPCON) of their personnel, teams and units to the Civilian Operation Commander.

5. The Civilian Operation Commander shall have overall responsibility for ensuring that the EU's duty of care is properly discharged.

6. The Civilian Operation Commander and the EU Special Representative (EUSR) shall consult each other as required.

### Article 6



#### **Head of Mission**

1. The Head of Mission shall assume responsibility for and exercise command and control of the Mission at theatre level.
2. The Head of Mission shall exercise command and control over personnel, teams and units from contributing States as assigned by the Civilian Operation Commander together with administrative and logistic responsibility including over assets, resources and information placed at the disposal of the Mission.
3. The Head of Mission shall issue instructions to all Mission staff, including in this case the support element in Brussels, for the effective conduct of EUMM Georgia in theatre, assuming its coordination and day-to-day management, and following the instructions at the strategic level of the Civilian Operation Commander.
4. The Head of Mission shall be responsible for the implementation of the Mission's budget. For this purpose, the Head of Mission shall sign a contract with the Commission.
5. The Head of Mission shall be responsible for disciplinary control over the staff. For seconded staff, disciplinary action shall be exercised by the national or EU authority concerned.
6. The Head of Mission shall represent EUMM Georgia in the operations area and shall ensure appropriate visibility of the Mission.
7. The Head of Mission shall coordinate, as appropriate, with other EU actors on the ground. The Head of Mission shall, without prejudice to the chain of command, receive local political guidance from the EUSR.
8. The Head of Mission shall draw up the OPLAN for the Mission so that it may be submitted for approval by the Council. The Head of Mission shall be assisted in this task by the General Secretariat of the Council.

#### *Article 7*

##### **Staff**

1. EUMM Georgia shall consist primarily of staff seconded by Member States or EU institutions. Each Member State or EU institution shall bear the costs related to any of the staff seconded by it, including travel expenses to and from the place of deployment, salaries, medical coverage and allowances other than applicable daily allowances, as well as hardship and risk allowances.
2. International civilian staff and local staff shall be recruited on a contractual basis by the Mission if the functions required are not provided by personnel seconded by Member States. Exceptionally, in duly justified cases, where no qualified applications from Member States are available, nationals from participating third States may be recruited on a contractual basis, as appropriate.
3. All staff shall abide by the Mission-specific minimum security operating standards and the Mission security plan supporting the EU field security policy. As regards the protection of EU classified information with which staff are entrusted in the course of their duties, all staff shall respect the security principles and minimum standards established by the Council's Security Regulations (1).

#### *Article 8*

##### **Status of Mission and staff**

1. The status of the Mission and its staff, including where appropriate the privileges, immunities and further guarantees necessary for the completion and smooth functioning of the Mission, shall be agreed in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 24 of the Treaty. The SG/HR, assisting the Presidency, may negotiate such an agreement on its behalf.
2. The State or EU institution having seconded a member of staff shall be responsible for answering any claims linked to the secondment, from or concerning the member of staff. The State or EU institution in question shall be responsible for bringing any action against the seconded person.
3. The conditions of employment and the rights and obligations of international and local civilian staff shall be laid down in the contracts between the Head of Mission and the members of staff.

#### *Article 9*

##### **Chain of command**

1. EUMM Georgia shall have a unified chain of command, as a crisis management operation.
2. Under the responsibility of the Council, the PSC shall exercise political control and strategic direction of EUMM Georgia.
3. The Civilian Operation Commander, under the political control and strategic direction of the PSC and the overall authority of the SG/HR, shall be the commander of EUMM Georgia at the strategic level and, as such, shall issue the Head of Mission with instructions and provide him with advice and technical support.
4. The Civilian Operation Commander shall report to the Council through the SG/HR.

5. The Head of Mission shall exercise command and control of EUMM Georgia at theatre level and shall be directly responsible to the Civilian Operation Commander.

#### *Article 10*

##### **Political control and strategic direction**

1. The PSC shall exercise, under the responsibility of the Council, political control and strategic direction of the Mission. The Council hereby authorises the PSC to take the relevant decisions in accordance with the third paragraph of Article 25 of the Treaty. This authorisation shall include the powers to appoint a Head of Mission, upon a proposal of the SG/HR, and to amend the Concept of Operations (CONOPS) and the OPLAN. The powers of decision with respect to the objectives and termination of the Mission shall remain vested in the Council.
2. The PSC shall report to the Council at regular intervals.
3. The PSC shall receive, on a regular basis and as required, reports by the Civilian Operation Commander and the Head of Mission on issues within their areas of responsibility.

#### *Article 11*

##### **Participation of third States**

1. Without prejudice to the decision-making autonomy of the EU and its single institutional framework, third States may be invited to contribute to the Mission, provided that they bear the cost of the staff seconded by them, including salaries, all risk insurance cover, daily subsistence allowances and travel expenses to and from Georgia, and that they contribute to the running costs of the Mission, as appropriate.
  2. Third States contributing to the Mission shall have the same rights and obligations in terms of day-to-day management of the Mission as EU Member States.
  3. The Council hereby authorises the PSC to take the relevant decisions on acceptance of the proposed contributions and to establish a Committee of Contributors.
  4. Detailed arrangements regarding the participation of third States shall be covered by agreements concluded in accordance with Article 24 of the Treaty. The SG/HR, assisting the Presidency, may negotiate such agreements on its behalf.
- Where the EU and a third State conclude an agreement establishing a framework for the participation of that third State in EU crisis-management operations, the provisions of that agreement shall apply in the context of the Mission.

#### *Article 12*

##### **Security**

1. The Civilian Operation Commander shall direct the Head of Mission's planning of security measures and ensure their proper and effective implementation for EUMM Georgia in accordance with Articles 5 and 9, in coordination with the Council Security Office.
2. The Head of Mission shall be responsible for the security of the Mission and for ensuring compliance with minimum security requirements applicable to the Mission, in line with the policy of the EU on the security of personnel deployed outside the EU in an operational capacity under Title V of the Treaty, and its supporting instruments.
3. The Head of Mission shall be assisted by a Mission Security Officer (MSO), who shall report to the Head of Mission and also maintain a close functional relationship with the Council Security Office.
4. EUMM Georgia staff shall undergo mandatory security training before taking up their duties, in accordance with the OPLAN. They shall also receive regular in-theatre refresher training organised by the MSO.
5. The Head of Mission shall ensure the protection of EU classified information in accordance with the Council's Security Regulations.

#### *Article 13*

##### **Watch-keeping Capability**

The Watch-keeping Capability shall be activated for EUMM Georgia.

#### *Article 14*

##### **Financial arrangements**

1. The financial reference amount intended to cover the expenditure related to the Mission shall be EUR 31 000 000.
2. All expenditure shall be managed in accordance with the Community rules and procedures applicable to the general budget of the EU. Subject to the Commission's approval, the Head of Mission may conclude technical arrangements with EU Member States, participating third States, and other international actors regarding the provision of equipment, services and premises to EUMM Georgia. Nationals of third States shall be allowed to tender for contracts.
3. The Head of Mission shall report fully to, and be supervised by, the Commission regarding the activities undertaken in the framework of his contract.

4. The financial arrangements shall respect the operational requirements of the Mission including compatibility of equipment and interoperability of its teams.
5. The expenditure connected with the Mission shall be eligible as of the date of entry into force of this Joint Action.

#### *Article 15*

##### **Coordination**

1. Without prejudice to the chain of command, the Head of Mission shall act in close coordination with the Commission delegation to ensure the consistency of EU action in support of Georgia.
2. The Head of Mission shall coordinate closely with the local EU Presidency and other EU Heads of Missions.
3. The Head of Mission shall cooperate with the other international actors present in the country, in particular the UN and the OSCE.

#### *Article 16*

##### **Release of classified information**

1. The SG/HR shall be authorised to release to the third States associated with this Joint Action, as appropriate and in accordance with the needs of the Mission, EU classified information and documents up to 'CONFIDENTIEL UE' level generated for the purposes of the Mission, in accordance with the Council's Security Regulations.
2. The SG/HR shall also be authorised to release to the UN and OSCE, in accordance with the operational needs of the Mission, EU classified information and documents up to 'RESTREINT UE' level which are generated for the purposes of the Mission, in accordance with the Council's Security Regulations. Local arrangements shall be drawn up for this purpose.
3. In the event of a specific and immediate operational need, the SG/HR shall also be authorised to release to the host State any EU classified information and documents up to 'RESTREINT UE' level which are generated for the purposes of the Mission, in accordance with the Council's Security Regulations. In all other cases, such information and documents shall be released to the host State in accordance with the appropriate procedures for cooperation by the host State with the EU.

4. The SG/HR shall be authorised to release to the third States associated with this Joint Action any EU non-classified documents connected with the deliberations of the Council relating to the Mission and covered by the obligation of professional secrecy pursuant to Article 6(1) of the Council's Rules of Procedure (2).

#### *Article 17*

##### **Review of the Mission**

A Mission review shall be presented to the PSC six months after the beginning of the Mission, on the basis of a report by the Head of Mission and the General Secretariat of the Council.

#### *Article 18*

##### **Entry into force and duration**

This Joint Action shall enter into force on the date of its adoption and its duration shall be for a period of 12 months.

#### *Article 19*

##### **Publication**

1. This Joint Action shall be published in the Official Journal of the European Union.
2. Decisions of the PSC pursuant to Article 10(1) regarding the appointment of the Head of Mission shall also be published in the Official Journal of the European Union.

*Done at Brussels, 15 September 2008.*

*For the Council*

*The President*

**B. KOUCHNE**

(1) Council Decision 2001/264/EC of 19 March 2001 adopting the Council's security regulations (OJ L 101, 11.4.2001, p. 1).

(2) Council Decision 2006/683/EC, Euratom of 15 September 2006 adopting the Council's Rules of Procedure (OJ L 285, 16.10.2006, p. 47).

# EU Press Release 12453/08 (Presse 236), supporting and calling for the respect of the Six-Point Ceasefire Agreement

The Council adopted the following conclusions:

"1. The Council recalls that the Union had expressed its grave concern at recent developments in Georgia, and the open conflict that has broken out between Russia and Georgia. Military action of this kind is not a solution. This war has caused the loss of many human lives, inflicted suffering on the population, resulted in substantial material damage and further increased the number of displaced persons and refugees. A peaceful and lasting solution to the conflict in Georgia must be based on full respect for the principles of independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity recognised by international law and UN Security Council resolutions.

2. In this context, the absolute priority is to stop the suffering and bring the fighting to an end. In this respect the Council welcomes the agreement subscribed to by the parties yesterday on the basis of the mediation efforts carried out by the Union. The principles to which the parties have subscribed are as follows:

- (1) Not to resort to force;
- (2) To end hostilities definitively;
- (3) To provide free access for humanitarian aid;
- (4) Georgian military forces will have to withdraw to their usual bases;
- (5) Russian military forces will have to withdraw to the lines held prior to the outbreak of hostilities. Pending an international mechanism, Russian peace-keeping forces will implement additional security measures;
- (6) Opening of international talks on the security and stability arrangements in Abkhazia and South Ossetia.

The Council calls on the parties to honour all these commitments, beginning with an effective ceasefire, and to ensure that they are implemented effectively and in

good faith both on the ground and in the relevant fora. The international mechanism should be set up rapidly.

3. The Council emphasises the Union's commitment to contribute actively to effective implementation of these principles. They will be embodied in a UN Security Council resolution as soon as possible. Rapid reinforcement of the OSCE's observer capabilities on the ground is crucial. The Union will take action to this effect at the OSCE. The Council urges the parties not to obstruct the observers' activities. The Council also considers that the European Union must be prepared to commit itself, including on the ground, to support every effort, including those of the UN and the OSCE, with a view to a peaceful and lasting solution to the conflict in Georgia. It asks the Secretary General/High Representative, in liaison with the Commission, to prepare proposals on the matter with a view to the informal meeting in Avignon on 5 and 6 September.

4. The Council stresses the humanitarian emergency and the Union's resolve to provide vital assistance to the population. An outline has been given of initial measures undertaken, both by the Commission and by the Member States. The Council requests the Commission, in liaison with the Presidency, to continue to coordinate European assistance and to encourage pooling arrangements designed to enhance its effectiveness and relevance. It is essential that all parties undertake to respect international humanitarian law and to facilitate the unimpeded delivery of humanitarian assistance to all the population groups affected, without discrimination. In addition, in view of the destruction caused by the conflict, the Council emphasises the need to identify reconstruction requirements as of now and to prepare to make a significant contribution to meeting those requirements at Union level. It invites the Commission to report back to it on this matter before its next meeting."