



ევროკავშირი  
საქართველოსთვის  
The European Union for Georgia



Eastern Partnership  
Civil Society Forum  
Georgian National Platform

## Meeting of the Coordination Council

Date: August 3, 2017

Time: 16:00 -19:30

Venue: Europe Fund (3 Kavsadze Str.)

### Attendees:

1. Ketevan Vashakidze, Chair of the Georgian National Platform, Europe Foundation
2. Lasha Tugushi – Coordinator of the 1<sup>st</sup> WG. European Initiative, Liberal Academy Tbilisi
3. Manana Bitsadze-Mikeladze – Coordinator of the 1<sup>st</sup> WG, Free Choice.
4. Nino Elizbarashvili – Coordinator, 2<sup>nd</sup> WG. Association Women and Business.
5. Tengiz Svanidze – Coordinator 2<sup>nd</sup> WG, Georgian Tea Producers Association
6. Nana Phirosmanashvili – Coordinator 3<sup>rd</sup> WG, Farmers’ Rights Protection Association
7. Tamaz Vashakidze – Coordinator 3<sup>rd</sup> WG – Innovative Development Center
8. Vladimer Bozhadze – Coordinator 4<sup>th</sup> WG. Civil Society and Democracy Development Center
9. Raisa Liparteliani – Coordinator 5<sup>th</sup> WG, Trade Union Georgia

### Agenda:

- Adoption of Gender Sub-Group
- Review of Conference in Batumi “Georgia’s European Way”
- Discussion of draft strategic development paper: sustainable platform development
- Organizing issues to sign memorandum with the office of Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti Governors’ Office
- Administration issues of high level conference of the Georgian National Platform
- Review of joint statement of Georgian-European Platform initiative
- Accept new members
- Misc.

The meeting of the Coordination Council was opened by the Chair, who also introduced the agenda to the Council members.

First, the members heard the issue of establishing sub-group that works on gender issues, an idea put forward by Mrs. Manana Bitsadze-Mikeladze, the Coordinator of the 1<sup>st</sup> WG. She presented the initiative of the Platform member organizations. It must be noted, that similar initiative has already been proposed by the 4<sup>th</sup> WG, however unfortunately they have not been successful in setting it up. The Council decided to establish the sub-group, which will be open to the representative of every group in the Platform. The Coordinator also spoke about the importance of engaging more actively in the work of the sub-group that works on elections.

Next, the Council discussed the results of the conference held in Batumi – Georgia’s European Way. The Council gave positive assessment to the ability of being able to participate at the event as the Platform, but also noted, that prior preparation is needed of the ideas that will be put forward on behalf of the Platform. The members decided, that as the conference date remains unchanged and is always held in June-July, next year, in May the Platform groups should start preparing for it.

Next, the Council discussed the issue of sustainable development of the Platform and decided, in line with the previous Council decision, to prepare strategic development document. The core pillars of the document were agreed upon at the July 7 meeting with the invited facilitator. At this stage, the document is being drafted. Furthermore, the Chair informed the Council that it was notified by the EU delegation about the possibility that funding may be unavailable for the Platform in the future. Given this reality, the Chair proposed that in addition to the Strategic document, mechanisms must be drafted for fundraising purposes.

The Council also discussed the issue of signing memorandum with the Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti Governor’s Office. One of the Coordinators of the 3<sup>rd</sup> WG, the representative of the Innovative Enterprise Development believes that it would be preferable if signing of the memorandum is postponed since the Governor’s office is involved in the expansion of high voltage transmission cable expansion affair that may be dangerous for human health. According to their information, despite local population protests, the works have not been halted. Therefore, the Group Coordinator believes that signing the memorandum at this stage is not desirable as the cooperation memorandum does not intend to support the activities of the Office of the Governor, but is a great mechanism for discussion and inclusion. 8 votes against 1, the Council voted to still go ahead and sign the memorandum with the Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti Governor’s Office.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Group Coordinator was asked to draft a statement/a letter regarding the issue of expansion of electricity transmitting power lines and in this way, to demonstrate the position of the civil society organizations.

Next, the Council discussed organization issues of the high-level conference the Platform is organizing. In the frames of the Platform-Government memorandum, the Platform organizes an annual high-level conference. There, in addition to Platform member organizations, the representatives of the EU, the Government and Parliament participate. Hence, the conference is a tripartite event (the Government,

the EU, the Platform). According to the Council decision, the Conference will be held from November 25 to December 10 (one of the working days in this period). There will be 1 plenary and 6 parallel sessions. Plenary session will be dedicated to thematic issues predetermined by each working group and hence, in addition to invited guests, the speakers will include the group members themselves. The following issues may be on the agenda per each group:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Gr. – human rights and elections;
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Gr. – development of SMEs;
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Gr. – energy and environmental impact;
- 4<sup>th</sup> Gr. – conflicts, education;
- 5<sup>th</sup> Gr. – labor rights and social dialogue.

The Council also decided to ask the Platform member organizations to present to the Council a half-page argumentation, by respective working groups, on which issues they would like to focus at the Conference. The document should clearly demonstrate a problem, its timeliness and how to it fits the AA. Based on the propositions collected, the council will decide on the Conference agenda. Next, the authors of the proposition, based on their work results, will prepare at least 2 -page long summaries of the issues, which will include specific recommendations for the government. The authors of the summaries will act as speakers at the conference together with the party that receives the recommendation from them.

Particular attention will be paid to regional organizations and their involvement and direct participation in the conference. Also, the following representation principle will be observed: CSOs – trade unions – business. Non-Platform member businesses may also be invited at the conference.

Nest, the representative of Women and Business informed the Council that within the AA, an initiative for joint statement of the Georgian-European Platform is proposed. The main talking points of the joint statement are the following three issues:

- European Perspective is given to Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine:
- To start working on the creation of “European Economic Area +” model, which will include these three countries
- To accelerate Mobility Partnership Program in all three countries

The idea is that this initiative will be discussed at the October annual meeting of the Civil Society Forum with the same content or the same statement will be proposed by either by national Platforms or on behalf of an entire Platform.

At the end of the meeting, the Council discussed membership proposal and approved the following applicants:

- Association Caucasus Genes
- Charity Humanitarian Center Abkhazia
- Caucasus Development Group
- Guria Agro-business Center
- Social Protection League.

Thomas Jefferson Research Center was asked to provide additional information, while Law and Justice was denied membership application.

After three hours of discussion, the Coordination Council meeting was over.

Secretary of the meeting: Salome Sichinava