



Hon. Mr. Joseph Daul
President of European People's Party

Tbilisi, 30 March. 2016

Dear Mr. President,

I address in capacity of the Chairman of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum the Georgian National Platform. The EaP CSF Georgian National Platform is the largest NGO coalition in Georgia, comprising over 150 organizations, which support Georgia's European Integration path and contribute to it. We actively monitor the process of Georgia's integration into the European structures, participation in EU led policies, initiatives and programs. Our main effort is on the activities to support the implementation of the EU-Georgia Association Agreement (AA), which is essential for Georgia's deep political transformation into a value based society and its further integration in the Europe. Functional integration with European Union, practically stipulated by the provisions of the AA is understood, first of all, as gradual extension of four freedoms on Georgia. Functional integration with European Union, of the AA are understood, first of all, as a gradual extension of the four freedoms on Georgia.

A realistic prospect of the freedom of movement of people between Georgia and EU, provided by the expected Visa Free travel, has been achieved thanks to the hard work of the Government of Georgia and the society as a whole. We, as a coalition of civil society organizations, have been actively monitoring and advocating for the timely delivery of reforms required by Visa Liberalization Action Plan. Therefore we have a feeling of co-ownership and consequently of the responsibility for the results of the mentioned process.

The Georgian society, which has strong European aspirations and receiving the Visa Free travel as soon as possible, aspires first of all to obtain the opportunity for the realization of people to people contacts with EU citizens, freely travel, to see and learn more about the "promised land" – Europe, deeply rooted in the consciousness of any Georgian.

Bearing in mind a well proved friendly attitude and support of European People's Party towards our country, your personal contribution to this support, as well an important leverage the Party has over the decision making on EU Institutions level, allow me, on behalf of the Georgian National Platform and its Coordination Council, to kindly request Your Excellency, to support timely consideration and decision on granting to Georgian citizens a visa free travel right to the Schengen area.

With the Highest Respect,

Kakha Gogolashvili
Chairman of the EaP CSF Georgian National Platform

On behalf of following organizations – members of the Coordination Council of EaP CSF Georgian National Platform:

1. Georgian Young Lawyers Association
2. Institute for Development of Freedom of Information (IDFI)
3. Georgian Foundation for Strategic and International Studies (GFSIS)
4. Liberal Academy Tbilisi
5. Tea Producers' Association of Georgia
6. Foundation Caucasus Environment
7. Georgian Energy-Resources Effectively Using Association
8. Youth Alternative
9. Georgian Trade Union Confederation
10. Center for Civil Society and Democracy Development
11. Public Movement “Multinational Georgia”