

September 26, 2016
Tbilisi, Georgia

Statement of CSOs on the Draft Law on Consumer Rights Protection

In 2013, the Georgian Parliamentary Committee on European Integration began work on a draft law on Consumer Rights Protection. Multiple state institutions and civil society organizations were involved in the preparation of this draft law. Although it was finalized by the end of 2013, the draft law was initiated only in July, 2015 and the current parliament completed its term without the adoption of the draft law. It shall be noted that, in March 2016, the draft law passed the first hearing by unanimous vote. However, as a result of the government's opposing the draft law, further hearing of the bill was suspended.

In Georgia, where it is very difficult to protect consumer rights due to the absence of a proper legislative framework in this field, the adoption of this draft law is crucial. The draft law introduces only the basic standards of consumer protection and does not impose any serious limitations or burdens on entrepreneurs. Apart from creating a legal framework for the protection of consumer rights, the draft law will promote responsible entrepreneurship and make Georgian businesses more competitive.

We regret that the current government of Georgia has not regarded consumer rights as a priority and we hope that in the aftermath of the upcoming parliamentary elections the government will pay proper attention to this issue, which is important for each citizen of Georgia, and will do more to protect citizens' rights and improving the business environment.

Signatory Organisation:

- Association for Efficient Use of Energy Resources of Georgia
- Association Farmers of Future
- Association of Food Products' Experts
- Association for Farmers Rights Defense, AFRD-EUFRAS Georgia
- Association of Internally Displaced Women *Consent*
- Association of Tea Producers of Georgia
- Association Peacefull and Business Caucasus
- Association Psychea
- Association School-Family-Society
- Center for Strategic Research and Development of Georgia
- Civil Council of Defence and Security
- Community Development Association
- Foundation Caucasus Environment
- Fund Of Women Entrepreneurs
- Georgian Alliance for Safe Roads
- Georgian Association of Regional Broadcasters
- Georgian Farmers Association
- Georgian Independent Exprets' Association
- Georgian Trade Unions' Confederation
- Imereti Union of Science Spectri
- Institute for Development of Freedom of Information
- Journalism Resourse Center
- Public Union Bridge of Friendship Kartlosi
- Studio ADC
- Union for Sustainable Development ECOVISION
- World Experience for Georgia - WEG