



GEORGIAN NATIONAL PLATFORM

EASTERN PARTNERSHIP CIVIL SOCIETY FORUM

Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum Georgian National Platform addresses Charles Michel, President of the European Council

Mr. Michel,

We are glad that you will visit Georgia again. We believe that your visit is especially important in the light of the ongoing processes in Georgia. We consider that the views and remarks expressed in the joint letter of the Ambassadors of the EU countries are noteworthy. We share their concerns about “recent events that have cast a shadow over EU-Georgia relations and Georgia’s image as a country upholding basic human right.” We hope that the Government of Georgia will take appropriate measures to fully and timely fulfill the calls of the Ambassadors.

We would like to reiterate that our platform, which unites approximately 200 civil society organizations, has been following the events that occurred on July 5 and 6 in Georgia with concern. It was an unprecedented violence against journalists when 53 members of the media were injured and cameraman Lekso Lashkarava died. We were also concerned about the level of aggression against the LGBTQ community and public activists. It is also noteworthy to mention the inability of the government to enforce constitutional law and protect society from abusers is also noteworthy. The guarantor of the development of democratic processes is first and foremost an independent judiciary. The fact that Georgian Parliament endorsed six Supreme Court judges despite calls by the European Union, hinders Georgia’s Western aspirations.

We call on the Government and Parliament of Georgia to investigate allegations of violence against journalists and the tearing down and burning of the EU flag by far-right extremist groups.

We believe (and share Charles Michel’s position) that legal as well as political measures should be taken. We, as the platform uniting the most numerous civil society organizations stands guard the European integration process, will continue our efforts in this area in the future.

We are eager to have our platform as the main outpost for European values and aspirations expressed by a large part of the population of Georgia.

Mr. Michel, we believe that today due to the geopolitical and current events ongoing in the country, the Government of Georgia (GoG) should be the executor of the Constitution and the Association Agreement. The GoG should distance itself from abusers, investigate and punish them. The GoG should investigate all the groups that threaten the country's Euro-Atlantic and EU integration process and prevent any attempt to threaten Georgia's security.

We hope that together we will deal with the growing threats and Georgia will continue moving towards integration in the European family.