



GEORGIAN NATIONAL PLATFORM

EASTERN PARTNERSHIP CIVIL SOCIETY FORUM

August 15, 2021

Dear Mr. President,

EaP CSF Georgian National Platform (GNP) is the largest coalition of CSOs in Georgia. It aims to support Georgia's European integration, ongoing reforms and democratic transition. The platform interacts with the Government of Georgia, the Parliament of Georgia and other state institutions and agencies to monitor legal and institutional changes, advocate and provide advice. The GNP is supportive to EU-Georgia relations, further sectoral and functional integration of Georgia with the EU, regional cooperation, including within Eastern Partnership. The GNP actively contributes to the activities implemented by EaP CSF and cooperates with similar platforms from other EaP states.

We, unconditionally supporting Georgia's integration and eventual EU membership, clearly understand the importance of political culture, pluralism and democratization and strive for their improvement leading to stabilization of the country and building trust and credibility in the political process in the country.

We fully supported the signing of the interparty April 19 agreement, achieved thanks to EU's active engagement and your Excellency's personal efforts and contribution. The agreement facilitated the normalization of the parliamentary process. Almost all opposition parties and elected MPs have entered the parliament. The agreement also represented a well-designed and realistic plan for the further stabilization of the country, a considerable improvement of its democratic performance, including better electoral law, judicial impartiality, ending polarization and of confrontation in the society, power sharing within the legislature and a chance to elect new parliament with more just representation, etc. We would like to stress the tangible progress already achieved through amendments to the Electoral Code and inspired by the above-named agreement, which to our understanding is a step forward towards improving of electoral environment. The provisions of the agreement, if implemented properly, would have positive impact on all other spheres and, eventually, allow the country's institutions to serve better the needs of the people, as well as make Georgia prepared and ready to make an application for EU membership.

We, as well as the overwhelming majority of Georgian population, cannot be satisfied with the possibility of destruction of all the aforementioned expectations. Moreover, we consider that the arguments provided by the leaders of the ruling party to excuse the unexpected withdrawal from the agreement are unacceptable.

We acknowledge the damage Georgia will suffer internationally due to downgrading its image and credibility. Indeed, the cancellation of the agreement will even more affect the reform and transformational goals of the country.

We believe that the EU stands as the strongest supporter and institutional anchor for Georgia. Decreasing EU's engagement and its intervention could have devastating consequences for the country and for all hopes and expectations about its future.

His Excellency Mr. Charles Michele
President. European Council, Brussels

We strongly believe that this situation is still manageable and the damage, before it expands fully, can be repaired. It is essential to ensure that personally you, your representatives as well as representatives of other EU institutions continue efforts to pursue dialogue with Georgian authorities, political forces and civil society and hold discussions with Georgian Dream and other political forces to drive towards a solution to the emerging crisis.

In our view the EU has sufficient leverage to demand from the Georgian leadership to continue respecting the ideas and outcomes derived from the 19 April agreement. This may concern new type of conditionality on EU's pledges for Georgia. We, the Georgian National Platform are eager to mobilize and engage best Georgian experts and NGOs in order to propose adequate solutions supporting reform and action in the areas covered by the 19th April agreement. We are also ready to monitor and report on the implementation of commitments by the Government of Georgia if EU obtains the promise from Georgian authorities that the Georgian Dream will unilaterally respect the provisions of the cancelled agreement.

We look forward to your kind response.

Yours sincerely,

Members of the EaP CSF Georgian National Platform

