



## GEORGIAN NATIONAL PLATFORM

EASTERN PARTNERSHIP CIVIL SOCIETY FORUM

### Statement of Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum Georgian National Platform on the Oil Spill near Novorossiysk

On August 7, the European Space Agency (ESA) confirmed that an oil spill occurred into the Black Sea near Novorossiysk. According to various sources, the oil slick has spread over an area of 15 km and 19 km, which according to the latest estimates, extended for a distance of 85 km that goes beyond Russia's maritime boundaries. The aforementioned information was spread due to the fact that international organizations paid attention to the oil spill. It is disturbing that the Russian Federation continues efforts to hide information. As it turned out later, the spill occurred at the terminal that belongs to the Caspian Pipeline Consortium (CPC) during the loading of the Greek tanker. The contractor at the Black Sea port is Transneft Service - state-owned Transneft's subsidiary.

The Georgian National Platform (GNP) is concerned about this fact and keeps an eye on the ongoing process. We call on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia and the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia to take control of the issue. It is crucial to use all international tools (under the Convention and the Agreement) to force the Russian Federation to provide transparent and accurate information to the Black Sea countries. It is noteworthy that in the event the oil spill widely spreads, first of all, the waters along Abkhazia will be endangered.

Therefore, the GNP, which will continue to watch the ongoing processes carefully, urges international organizations to ensure the implementation of all appropriate procedures to reduce damage to the Black Sea. The Russian authorities should also be urged to implement relevant activities to prevent potential environmental disasters that may be caused by disorganized systems and increased oil production.

Coordinating Council of The Georgian National Platform