



European Council
Cabinet of the President

SGS 21 / 004099

Brussels, 30. 09. 2021

Dear Members of the EaP CSF Georgian National Platform,

Thank you for sharing your Appeal addressed to Charles Michel, President of the European Council.

The political agreement reached by the political parties of Georgia with the mediation of the President of the European Council on 19 April represented an important opportunity for Georgia to move forward in a constructive direction following many months of political upheaval. Following Georgian Dream's withdrawal from the 19 April Agreement, we also took note of the Party's renewed and public commitment on 28 July, to nevertheless implement the judicial reforms and adopt the initiated constitutional amendments. We regret, however, that not all commitments have been upheld at present. The challenges remain. As remarked by President Michel in his statement of 29 July, in addition to holding free and fair local elections, the EU sees no alternative to continued in-depth electoral and judicial reforms. Such reforms remain the best chance of tangible progress in further building Georgia's democracy and resilience and ending the damaging polarisation currently affecting the Georgian political system.

We have always encouraged the parties to strive for consensual reforms, and it is for the parties and the Georgian parliament to devise exact ways of implementing these reform, through a broad, inclusive process. That is exactly the spirit of the 19 April Agreement, aiming to forge a shared way forward for Georgia.

We see an important role also for civil society in this process, in devising constructive solutions to the current challenges and in holding the Georgian political parties accountable. We value your commitment to European integration, reforms and democratic consolidation in Georgia, and we very much appreciate our continued cooperation and the key contribution of the EaP Civil Society Forum to the Eastern Partnership policy and its implementation.

The EU will continue to provide support Georgia in these endeavours, as a close partner and friend.

Yours sincerely,

Frédéric BERNARD
Head of Cabinet

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