

JOSEP BORRELL FONTELLES

HIGH REPRESENTATIVE
VICE PRESIDENT OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels, 22/01/2024
A(2023)8497186- A(2024) 12673776

Mr Oliver Röpke
President of the European Economic and Social Committee
Brussels

Dear President,

Thank you for your letter of 7 December 2023, addressed to President von der Leyen and to me, and sharing the joint declaration of the EU-Georgia Civil Society Platform (CSP).

In a historic decision of the European Council, EU leaders granted Georgia the candidate status last December. The General Affairs Council took good note of the genuine European aspirations of the overwhelming majority of Georgian people and welcomed the overall good legislative framework, institutional setup and vibrant civil society, including watchdog organisations as elements providing Georgia with a sound basis to advance democratic and rule of law reforms.

Georgia's European future is now within reach and Georgia can count on EU's support on this path. It is crucial that Georgia now takes the steps to implement the reform agenda as set out in the Commission's recommendation of 8 November 2023. These reforms need to be implemented inclusively, meaningfully and irreversibly. Civil society's active, inclusive and meaningful participation in the policymaking process is critical for advancing Georgia on its reform path towards future EU membership, especially in the areas of rule of law and fundamental rights.

We look forward to our future engagement with you and the EU-Georgia Civil Society Platform. Joint actions remain crucial in building more inclusive, democratic, and prosperous communities in Georgia and across the region. Georgia's advancement on its European path will greatly benefit both Georgia and the EU.

Yours faithfully,



Josep Borrell Fontelles