

## Chronology of major events of Georgia- EU cooperation



**Relations between the European Union and Georgia started in 1991-92** just after Georgia regained its sovereignty in the wake of the break-up of the Soviet Union.

**Since 1995** Georgia benefits from the EU's Generalised System of Preferences (GSP). In 2005 Georgia became a beneficiary of the new System of Preferences Special Incentive Arrangement for Sustainable Development and Good Governance (GSP+). Since January 2014 upgraded GSP+ entered into force which was extended to Georgia.

**On 22 April, 1996** the EU-Georgia Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (PCA) was signed in Luxembourg that entered into force on 1 July, 1999. In compliance with the agreement and with the aim of supporting the implementation of the PCA and strengthening of bilateral relations and political dialogue between the parties, following cooperation institutions were created: EU-Georgia Cooperation Council; EU-Georgia Cooperation Committee; EU-Georgia Parliamentary Cooperation Committee and EU-Georgia Cooperation Sub-committees. The meetings are held annually. Besides, political dialogue meetings at the level of the Political and Security Committee (PSC) are convened at least once a year.

**On 7 July, 2003** the EU appointed the Special Representative for the South Caucasus. In 2003 the Finnish diplomat, Ambassador Heikki Talvitie was appointed as the EUSR for the South Caucasus. He was succeeded in 2006 by Swedish Ambassador Peter Semneby. In 2011 the French diplomat, Ambassador Philippe Lefort was appointed as the European Union Special Representative for the South Caucasus and the Crisis in Georgia, replacing Ambassador Pierre Morel and Ambassador Peter Semneby. Ambassador Lefort ended his mandate on 31 January

2014. On July 8, 2014, Ambassador Herbert Salber was appointed as the next EU Special Representative for the South Caucasus and the crisis in Georgia.

**On 17 February, 2004** the Government of Georgia established a post of the State Minister for European and Euro-Atlantic Integration.

**In 2004** the EU launched a Rule of Law Mission to Georgia (EUJUST THEMIS) within the European Security and Defense Policy (ESDP). Mission was designed to support Georgian authorities in addressing urgent challenges in the criminal justice system and in developing a coordinated overall approach to the reform process. Mission finalised in 2005.

**On 14 June, 2004** Georgia joined the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) based on the respective decision of the EU Council.

**On 14 November, 2006** the EU-Georgia ENP Action Plan was adopted.

**In response to the Russia-Georgia war**, the emergency EU summit on 1 September 2008 was convened. On 15 September, 2008 the European Union Monitoring Mission in Georgia (EUMM) was established that started its operation on 1 October 2008. On 25 September 2008, the Council of the European Union appointed the European Union Special Representative for the South Caucasus and the crisis in Georgia (EUSR). The post was held by Pierre Morel until 2011.

**On 22 October, 2008** the Georgian Donor's Conference, organised by the European Union and the World Bank was convened in Brussels. Partner countries and international donor organisations pledged 4.5 billion dollars to support Georgia for 2008-2010.

**In April 2009** the format of the EU-Georgia Human Rights Dialogue (HRD) was launched within the EU-Georgia political dialogue. The meetings are held on an annual basis.

**On 7 May, 2009** the 1<sup>st</sup> Eastern Partnership Summit was held in Prague.

**In 2009** Georgia joined the Eastern Partnership Initiative (EaP) that was launched at the Prague Summit on 7 May, 2009. Georgia is actively engaged in the cooperation within both bilateral and multilateral dimensions of the EaP. Civil Society Forum represents yet another key component of the EaP initiative.

**On 30 November, 2009** the joint declaration on the Mobility Partnership was signed in Brussels. The EU-Georgia cooperation in the framework of the Mobility Partnership officially launched on 16 February 2010.

**On 17 June, 2010** the Visa Facilitation Agreement was signed between the EU and Georgia.

**On 15 July, 2010** negotiations on the EU-Georgia Association Agreement, including the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (DC FTA) were launched.

**On 22 November 2010** an Agreement on the readmission of persons residing without authorisation was signed in Brussels. Both agreements entered into force on 1 March 2011.

**On 2 December, 2010** the comprehensive air transport agreement on the establishment of a Common Aviation Area between the EU and Georgia was signed in Brussels.

**On 3 May, 2011** the Eastern Partnership Parliamentary Assembly - the Euronest was established at an extraordinary meeting in Brussels.

**On 14 July, 2011** the agreement on "Mutual Recognition and Protection of Geographical Indications of Agricultural Products and Foodstuffs", signed between the EU and Georgia that entered into force on 1 April 2012.

**On 29-30 September, 2011** the 2<sup>nd</sup> Eastern Partnership Summit was held in Warsaw.

**On 28 February, 2012** the negotiations on the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (DCFTA) Agreement between the EU and Georgia were officially launched.

**On 4 June, 2012** the visa liberalisation dialogue between the EU and Georgia was launched.

**On 5 June, 2012** the 1<sup>st</sup> Informal Eastern Partnership Dialogue meeting was held in Chisinau.

**On 12-13 February, 2013** the 2<sup>nd</sup> Informal Eastern Partnership Dialogue meeting was held in Tbilisi which for the first time included the sectoral dialogue on transport issues.

**On 25 February, 2013** the Visa Liberalisation Action Plan (VLAP) was officially presented to the Georgian authorities.

**On 27-28 June, 2013** the 1<sup>st</sup> Eastern Partnership Ministerial meeting on Culture was held in Tbilisi.

**On 12-13 September, 2013** the 3<sup>rd</sup> Informal Eastern Partnership Dialogue meeting was held in Yerevan, which included the sectoral dialogue on education issues.

**On 28-29 November, 2013** the 3<sup>rd</sup> Eastern Partnership Summit was held in Vilnius.

**On 29 November, 2013** the European Union and Georgia initialed the Association Agreement (AA), including the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (DCFTA) at the Vilnius Eastern Partnership Summit.

**On 29 November, 2013** the Framework Agreement on participation of Georgia in the EU-led crisis management operations was signed between the European Union and Georgia at the Vilnius Summit.

**On 12 December, 2013** the Protocol on participation of Georgia in the EU programmes was signed between the European Union and Georgia.

**On 20 February, 2014** negotiations between the EU and Georgia for Georgia's accession to the Energy Community were officially launched.

**On 26 June, 2014** the EU-Georgia Association Agenda was adopted. The Association Agenda establishes a set of jointly agreed priorities for the period 2014-2016 with a view to preparing for the implementation of the Association Agreement, including the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (DCFTA).

**On 27 June, 2014** the EU-Georgia Association Agreement, including the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (DCFTA) was signed in Brussels.

**On 9 September, 2014** the 4<sup>th</sup> Informal Eastern Partnership Dialogue meeting was held in Baku, which included the sectoral dialogue on energy issues.

**On 17 November, 2014**, the European Union and Georgia held the first meeting of the Association Council in Brussels.

**On 21 May, 2014**, the meeting between the European Commission and the Government of Georgia was held in Brussels.

**On 20 April, 2015**, the 6<sup>th</sup> Eastern Partnership Foreign Ministerial meeting was held in Luxembourg.

**On 21-22 May 2015**, the 4<sup>th</sup> Eastern Partnership Summit was held in Riga.

**On 16 June, 2016** the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of EU-Georgia Association Committee was held in Tbilisi.

**On 2 July, 2015** the first meeting of EU-Georgia Association Committee was held in Tbilisi.

**On 29 June, 2015**, the 5<sup>th</sup> Informal Eastern Partnership Dialogue meeting was held in Minsk, which included the sectoral dialogue on *environmental* issues.

**On 16 November, 2015**, the European Union and Georgia held the second meeting of the Association Council in Brussels.

**On 26 November, 2016**, the 6<sup>th</sup> Informal Eastern Partnership Dialogue meeting was held in Tbilisi, which included the sectoral dialogue on Health issues.

**On 30 November -2 December, 2015**, Delegation of the Working Group on Eastern Europe and Central Asia of the EU Council visited Georgia.

**On 18 December**, the European Commission published its fourth and final progress report on Georgia's implementation of the Visa Liberalisation Action Plan (VLAP).

**On 9 March, 2016**, Based on the European Commission final progress report on Georgia's implementation of the Visa Liberalisation Action Plan (VLAP), the Commission presented the legislative proposal on establishment of short term visa waiver for Georgian citizens amending Regulation (EC) No 539/2001.

**On 23 May, 2016**, the 7<sup>th</sup> Eastern Partnership Foreign Ministerial meeting was held in Brussels.

**On 23 May, 2016**, Following provisional application of the Association Agreement, the EU Council adopted a decision to complete the ratification procedures of the EU-Georgia Association Agreement.

**On 23 June, 2016**, the Agreement on exchange of classified information between the EU and Georgia was signed in Brussels.

**On 1 July, 2016**, The Association Agreement between the European Union and Georgia fully entered into force.

**On 11-12 July, 2016** the 7<sup>th</sup> Informal Eastern Partnership Dialogue meeting was held in Kiev, which included the sectoral dialogue on Economic Reforms to Unleash SME Potential issues.

**On 17 November, 2016**, the 8<sup>th</sup> Informal Eastern Partnership Dialogue meeting was held in Yerevan, which included the sectoral dialogue on research, science and innovation issues.

**On 2 December, 2016** the European Union and Georgia was held the 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the Association Council in Brussels.

**On 28 March, 2017** Visa-free travel with the EU came into force for Georgian citizens.

**On 19 June, 2017**, the 8th Eastern Partnership Foreign Ministerial meeting was held in Luxembourg.

**On 22 June, 2017** the 3rd meeting of EU-Georgia Association Committee was held in Tbilisi.

**On 1 July, 2017** Georgia officially became a full-fledged contracting party to the Energy Community Treaty (Protocol on Accession signed on 14 October 2016 and entered into force on 1 July 2017).

**On 10 July, 2017**, the 9th Informal Eastern Partnership Dialogue meeting was held in Chisinau, which included the sectoral dialogue on Energy Efficiency issues.