



**SEIMAS OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA  
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

**DECISION  
ON THE 2017–2020 ACTION PLAN OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA ON SUPPORT  
TO GEORGIA**

10 May 2017  
Vilnius

The Committee on European Affairs and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania (hereinafter referred to as the Committees),

*supporting* Georgia's strong determination to seek European and Euro-Atlantic integration, which was confirmed in the unanimously adopted Resolution of 29 December 2016 of the Parliament of Georgia on the Foreign Policy of Georgia, which stipulates that the main goal of the country is sovereignty, de-occupation and territorial integrity to be achieved through strengthening of the democratic institutions, and the key priorities are the integration in the European Union (EU) and the membership of NATO;

*having regard to* the fact that, signed on 27 June 2014, the EU–Georgia Association Agreement, including a Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (AA/DCFTA), formally entered into force on 1 July 2016, that Georgia has already implemented a number of reforms by strengthening democratic institutions and the rule of law as well as passing a number of legal acts to ensure human rights and eliminate discrimination, and that the EU–Georgia Association Agenda for 2017–2020 is currently being finalised to identify the imminent tasks and objectives for the implementation of the Association Agreement;

*welcoming* the entry into force of the long-awaited visa-free regime with the EU for Georgian citizens on 28 March 2017, representing a major achievement for Georgia, which has implemented the necessary reforms in their entirety, and sending an important signal that, despite the complex geopolitical situation in the world, European reforms pay off and generate tangible benefits and that the reforms implemented in the framework of the Association Agreement will bring the same benefits in the medium and long term;

*stressing* that Georgia is one of the most active NATO partners and an important country for reinforcing security of the whole region and international stability, that Georgia continues consistently implementing ambitious reforms in the defence sector, and that, endorsed at the NATO Wales Summit, the Substantial NATO–Georgia Package, which aims to further strengthen Georgia’s defence capabilities, provide expert support across various areas of security, and conduct NATO exercises in Georgia, is being successfully implemented;

*noting*, however, that the status of Georgia, as of the most advanced country in the Eastern Partnership, should not be taken for granted and considered as unchanging in view of both external and internal policy factors and that the major challenge to and objective of Georgia’s friends is to preserve the achieved leadership and to provide incentives for the Georgian society and government to maintain the strategic direction and vision;

calling for the mobilisation of political, expert and financial support to Georgia with a view to helping the country to overcome the emerging challenges and sending the message that Georgia is not alone on its path of reform and integration,

**call on** the Government and authorities of the Republic of Lithuania to implement the 2017–2020 the Action Plan of the Republic of Lithuania on support to Georgia (attached) by making joint and coordinated efforts and harnessing Lithuania’s experience;

**urge** the Government of the Republic of Lithuania and the competent authorities to earmark the necessary funds for support measures of the Republic of Lithuania for Georgia and take vigorous action to implement the proposals set out in this Decision;

**propose** that, at least once during the Seimas session, the Government provides, at the joint meeting of the Committees, information on the implementation of the measures provided for in the 2017–2020 Action Plan of the Republic of Lithuania on support to Georgia. In the light of the results achieved, the situation in Georgia and the developments in the Western community, the list of measures contained in the Action Plan may be revised and re-approved at the joint meeting of the Committees.

Juozas Bernatonis,  
Chair of the Committee on Foreign Affairs

## 2017–2020 ACTION PLAN OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA ON SUPPORT TO GEORGIA

### 1. Political support:

1.1. Support for Georgia's European integration: in cooperation with partners supporting Georgia, to provide guidance on possible further achievements of Georgia with a view to integrating into the European Union (EU); to highlight the importance of both Georgia's rights and opportunities (achievements that are measurable, visible and understandable to the public), on the one hand, and commitments (primarily human rights, the rule of law, freedom of the media, freedom of expression and other freedoms), on the other.

1.2. Support for Georgia's Euro-Atlantic integration: within the framework of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly and the North Atlantic Council, to help honouring the commitments identified by NATO; to assist Georgia in implementing the necessary reforms, modernising the armed forces, and making full use of the available instruments such as the Substantial NATO–Georgia Package, the Annual National Programme, and the NATO–Georgia Commission.

1.3. International establishment of the principle that Georgia and other Eastern Partnership countries cannot be considered Russia's area of interest: by expressing support for a clear and sovereign decision of the Georgian society to seek integration into the EU and NATO, the West would prevent Russia from establishing new “red lines”.

1.4. Support for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Georgia: to consistently emphasise this principle in multilateral formats and to mobilise support for the Geneva International Discussions and the EU Monitoring Mission in Georgia; to assist Georgia in building mutual trust between its government and the population of the occupied Georgian territories.

### 2. Expert and financial support:

2.1. Increased monitoring of the implementation of the Association Agreement and provision of the dedicated financial support for facilitating reforms: to continue Lithuania's development cooperation projects, to disseminate Lithuanian expertise when improving the coordination of integration processes in Georgia; to seek the EU's commitment of greater human resources and strengthened comprehensive involvement in and monitoring of implementation of the Association Agreement in Georgia; following the evaluation of the Association Agreement as a whole, to assist

Georgia in prioritising its objectives and launching the reforms that can fastest bring the highest benefits for the country's economic growth.

2.2. Provision of EU expert support to Georgia (depending on Georgia's interest and taking account of the relevant experience of Ukraine and Moldova).

2.3. Lithuania's support for development cooperation: to support the implementation of the reforms provided in the Association Agreement through development cooperation projects.

2.4. Support for implementation of twinning projects: to achieve a steady increase in the number of awarded twinning projects.

2.5. Law on Civil Service: to aim at using the Lithuanian expertise when implementing the civil service reform.

2.6. Public traffic safety: to use Lithuania's experience in helping Georgia to improve the public traffic safety (adoption of a package of laws on traffic is pending at the Parliament of Georgia); to promote further work in this area in cooperation with the Swiss and Polish representatives in Tbilisi.

2.7. Renewable energy: to seek increased use of Lithuanian expertise and business opportunities in Georgia and to exploit the potential of solar energy producers.

2.8. Energy efficiency: to seek increased use of Lithuanian expertise and business opportunities in Georgia for implementing energy efficiency projects.

2.9. Waste management (landfills, reverse vending machines, waste water treatment): to seek to stimulate the interest in Lithuania's experience; to initiate study visits of representatives of the competent Georgian authorities.

2.10. Strengthening of municipal relations: (14 Lithuanian municipalities already have direct partners in Georgia) to seek to further deepen and develop cooperation and exchange of good practice.

**3. Support for defence and the armed forces:** to promote a higher number of joint exercises of NATO member countries and Georgia, to participate in them, to seek greater presence of partner forces in Georgia; to actively cooperate with the NATO Liaison Office and NATO Contact Point Embassy in Georgia.

#### **4. Promotion of economic cooperation and direct investment:**

4.1. Economic integration with the EU: to assist Georgia in assessing the potential benefits of further economic integration models (customs union with the EU or strengthening of integration in the framework of the European Economic Area).

4.2. Measures for promoting foreign investment and exports to the EU: to call on the EU institutions to take targeted measures in this area, so that the EU–Georgia Association Agreement, including a Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (AA/DCFTA), becomes a success story; to explore measures to attract more direct investment, improve the Georgian economy, and promote trade with EU Member States.

#### **5. Support for education:**

5.1. Improving the vocational training system: to explore ways to assist Georgia in improving vocational training, thus contributing to sustainable economic development.

5.2. Creation of favourable conditions for Georgian students to study and work in Lithuania: to encourage Georgian students to study in Lithuania by granting them targeted scholarships and creating favourable conditions for study.

5.3. Transfer of experience to young professionals: to implement a special programme for education of young leaders, which is modelled on the programme *Create Lithuania*, and provide opportunities for young Georgian professionals, who have completed their studies in Lithuania, to get a placement of up to a year at Lithuanian public institutions, high-tech and other innovative companies, and, afterwards, to ensure, through mentoring, the return of these young professionals to Georgia and effective use of their potential.

#### **6. Parliamentary cooperation and political diplomacy:**

6.1. Strengthening of parliamentary cooperation between Lithuania and Georgia: to strengthen the cooperation between the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania and the Parliament of Georgia and their committees and political groups by developing reciprocal contacts and sharing Lithuania's experience of European and Euro-Atlantic integration and promoting the implementation of necessary reforms at bilateral visits and meetings; to develop the activities of the Seimas Group for Inter-Parliamentary Relations with Georgia, the parliamentary dimension cooperation between Lithuanian and Georgian delegations at international organisations, first and foremost, at the

parliamentary assemblies of NATO, the Council of Europe, and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe; to advance sectoral cooperation between the parliamentary committees of Lithuania and Georgia in their respective areas of competence.

6.2. Development of party diplomacy: with the participation and mediation of the major Lithuanian (traditional) political parties and by attracting the funds from other Western countries and international foundations, to set up and develop, making use of state budget funds, a platform for cooperation between Western and Georgian political parties, long-term party diplomacy initiative aimed at encouraging the consolidation and pro-European reform of Georgian political parties; to advance party diplomacy in the EU and NATO member countries and multilateral fora with a view to engaging Georgian political parties into it.

6.3. Enhancing cooperation with the European Parliament: to strengthen and intensify the contacts with the European Parliament for mobilisation of support for Georgia's European and Euro-Atlantic integration, and to initiate respective actions within EU institutions.

6.4. Mobilising of support of the Western democratic community: to inform, through diplomatic and inter-parliamentary communication channels, other Western states, particularly Central and Northern European countries, and their parliaments, including EU and NATO parliamentary bodies, of the Action Plan of the Republic of Lithuania on support to Georgia; to encourage other countries and international bodies to draw up and implement similar bilateral and multilateral plans on support to Georgia and exchange information on their implementation.

## **7. Other support measures:**

7.1. Strategic communication: to use Lithuania's experience to promote the necessary organisational changes, secure public support for the implementation of strategic national objectives, foster common European democratic values, and counter hostile propaganda.

7.2. Support to civil society: to promote and support Lithuanian and Georgian NGOs' joint projects, which involve partners from other EU Member States, NATO member countries and Eastern Partnership countries and contribute to the spread of democratic ideas and reinforcement of Georgia's civil society and non-governmental sector.