



EAC Chairs Urge Georgian Parliament to Repeal Controversial 'Law on Transparency of Foreign Influence'

15 May 2024

We, the Chairs of the European Affairs Committees of our respective parliaments,

Having regard to the European Parliament resolution on attempts to reintroduce a foreign agent law in Georgia and its restrictions on civil society (2024/2703(RSP))

Noting that on 14 May 2024 the Georgian Parliament adopted the Law on Transparency of Foreign Influence in its third reading, which essentially mirrors last year's controversial Law on Foreign Agents;

Taking into account that, under immense pressure and overwhelming mobilisation of the Georgian people, who recently took to the streets again in protest, the ruling party promised in May 2023 'to unconditionally withdraw' such legislation from the parliamentary deliberations;

Expressing deep concern about the content of this anti-democratic law, which is designed to stigmatize and weaken Georgia's vibrant pro-European civil society and NGO sector, while it is widely known as Georgia's greatest asset and hope and has a reputation of being one of the most transparent in the world in terms of budget and funding;

Underlining that reintroduction of this law severely undermines Georgia's hard-earned European perspective and its candidate status, because creating and maintaining the environment conducive to civil society organisations and media freedom lies at the heart of democracy and is essential for the success of Georgia's European integration;

Also recalling that Law on Transparency of Foreign Influence is incompatible with the legal obligations under the European Convention on Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to which Georgia is a party;

Call for respect for the right to peaceful assembly and expression, and strongly condemn the disproportionate use of force against peaceful protestors,

Urge the Georgian Government and the ruling Georgian Dream party to repeal the law on Transparency of Foreign Influence. The adopted law is detrimental to Georgia and its people. Not only does it contradict commitment to European values, but it also risks undermining the trust between Georgia and the EU. Given the current situation, Georgia cannot become a member state of the European Union unless the Georgian Parliament repeals the Law on Transparency of Foreign Influence.

We strongly desire to see Georgia prosper on its European and Euro-Atlantic path and hope that Georgia will reaffirm its commitment to EU membership.

Radvilė Morkūnaite-Mikulėnienė

Chair, European Affairs Committee,
The Seimas
Lithuania

Reinhold Lopatka

Chair, European Affairs Committee,
The Nationalrat
Austria

Harris Georgiades

Chair, Joint Committee on Foreign and European Affairs,
The House of Representatives
Cyprus

Ondřej Benešík

Chair, European Affairs Committee,
The Chamber of Deputies
Czech Republic

Liisa-Ly Pakosta

Chair, European Union Affairs Committee,
The Riigikogu
Estonia

Heikki Autto

Chair, Grand Committee,
The Eduskunta
Finland

Pieyre-Alexandre Anglade

Chair, European Affairs Committee,
The National Assembly
France

Jean-François Rapin

Chair, European Affairs Committee,
The Senate
France

Anton Hofreiter

Chair, European Union Affairs Committee,
The Bundestag
Germany

Colm Brophy

Chair, European Union Affairs Committee,
The Houses of Oireachtas
Ireland

Giuliomaria Terzi di Sant'Agata

Chair, European Affairs Committee,
The Senate of the Republic
Italy

Edmunds Cēpurītis

Chair, European Affairs Committee,
The Saeima
Latvia

Bogdan Klich

Chair, Senate EU Affairs Committee,
The Senate
Poland