



SEIMAS OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA

RESOLUTION ON THE SITUATION IN GEORGIA AND GEORGIA'S EUROPEAN FUTURE

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The Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania,

invoking the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Human Rights Declaration of 1948, which establishes the right to life, liberty and security of person and freedom of expression and stresses that no one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment,

having regard to Resolution No XIV-65 of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania of 10 December 2020 on the Long-term Guidelines and Continuity of the Foreign and European Policies of the Republic of Lithuania, which stresses that 'the area of fundamental values enshrined in Article 2 of the Treaty on European Union, namely respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and respect for human rights, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities, must be expanded both within and beyond the Union',

having regard to the European Parliament resolution of 28 November 2024 on Georgia's worsening democratic crisis following the recent parliamentary elections and alleged electoral fraud (2024/2933(RSP)),

having regard to the Statement of preliminary findings and conclusions of the International Election Observation Mission (I-EOM) led by the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe's Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (OSCE-ODIHR) on the parliamentary elections held in Georgia on 26 October 2024, and to the statement by the Head of the European Parliament's election observation delegation,

having regard to the Statement by the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Josep Borrell of 29 October 2024 on the latest developments following the Parliamentary elections in Georgia, and to the Statement by the European Commission and the High Representative Josep Borrell of 27 October 2024 on the Parliamentary elections in Georgia,

having regard to the Joint Statement of EU ministers of 28 October 2024 on the elections in Georgia,

having regard to the statement by the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Kaja Kallas and the European Commission of 1 December 2024 on the situation in Georgia,

having regard to the European Union candidate status granted to Georgia by the European Council at its summit of 14 and 15 December 2023,

having regard to the wish expressed by the people of Georgia not to deviate from the set path towards the European Union and NATO,

reminding that the process of integration of Georgia into the European Union has effectively been suspended following the adoption by the Parliament of Georgia of new anti-democratic legal acts, namely the Law on Transparency of Foreign Influence and the Law on Family Values and Protection of Minors, also recalling that the European Union has frozen the allocation of funds to Georgia,

emphasising that the period until the parliamentary elections held in Georgia on 26 October 2024 marked major attacks on democracy, such as the hasty adoption of anti-democratic legislation criticised by the United Nations, the European Commission for Democracy through Law (Venice Commission) and the European Union; the pre-election period failed to meet democratic standards due to actions by the ruling Georgian Dream party and the authorities that fostered a climate of fear, including through the arrest, home raids and intimidation of opposition politicians, civil society leaders, journalists, researchers and other persons critical of the government, and violence committed against them,

stating that the elections to the Parliament of Georgia on 26 October 2024 were marred by serious irregularities, documented reports of vote manipulation and the suppression of voter freedoms, cases of vote buying, harassment of observers and media representatives, intimidation of voters inside and outside of polling stations, tracking of voters and confiscation of identity documents in rural areas, which were then handed to loyal activists of the ruling party to vote, organised transportation of voters, hate speech, insufficient polling access for Georgian citizens abroad, and improbable differences in female and male voter turnout in rural precincts; public sector employees and recipients of social benefits faced pressure to support the ruling party,

having regard to the European Parliament's conclusions that pre-election coercion, election day manipulation and restricted observer access meant that the elections did not reflect the true will of the Georgian people, cannot be considered free and fair, and therefore the international community should not recognise the election results; also *having regard* to the calls for elections to be re-run in the near future, ensuring a genuinely fair and transparent electoral process,

recalling that the President of Georgia, Salome Zourabichvili, publicly condemned the elections as rigged, refused to recognise the validity of the result, called for an international investigation and fresh elections; the four opposition coalitions that surpassed the electoral threshold rejected the election results and refused to legitimise the resulting parliament and refused to join the 11th convocation of parliament; and that on 13 November 2024, repeating statements he made in August, Georgian Prime Minister Irakli Kobakhidze iterated plans to constitutionally ban major opposition parties if they refuse to accept their parliamentary mandates; all this indicates that Georgia finds itself in a constitutional crisis,

reminding that on 28 October 2024 protests erupted in Tbilisi against electoral fraud and suspension of Georgia's European aspirations, with thousands gathering to challenge the legitimacy of the ruling party's declared victory; police forcibly dispersed demonstrations using disproportionate violence against peaceful protesters, journalists, and opposition representatives,

emphasising that according to Article 78 of the Constitution of Georgia, 'the constitutional bodies shall take all measures within the scope of their competences to ensure the full integration of Georgia into the European Union and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization',

underlining that Georgia, as an EU candidate country, should abide fully by the Association Agreement and fulfil the nine steps set out by the Commission as a condition for Georgia to obtain the status of a candidate country;

stressing that Georgia's accession process to the European Union was de facto halted by the European Council on 27 June 2024 due to actions and decisions incompatible with the status of an EU candidate country,

strongly supports the legitimate European aspirations of the people of Georgia and their wish to live in a prosperous and democratic country, free from corruption, that fully respects fundamental freedoms, protects human rights and guarantees an open society, independent media and free and fair elections;

urges the Georgian authorities to repeal the 'foreign agents' law, to guarantee the right of citizens to assemble, and to refrain from using unwarranted force against them;

reminds the Georgian government that a large majority of the population strongly supports the country's pro-Western course and European integration aspirations;

stresses that the policy pursued by the Georgian Dream party is incompatible with Georgia's Euro-Atlantic integration, that violations of electoral integrity are incompatible with the standards expected from an EU candidate country, and that the conduct of the election was a further manifestation of the continuing democratic backsliding for which the ruling party is fully responsible;

deplores the disinformation narratives rooted in Russian propaganda disseminated and amplified by ruling party officials and government-affiliated media, aimed at influencing democratic processes in Georgia, such as the ‘Global War Party’ conspiracy; calls on the Georgian authorities to ensure fact-based information and communication, to refrain from anti-EU propaganda that is at odds with the stated goal of EU accession, and to strengthen the resilience of Georgian society against Russian disinformation and propaganda;

notes that the parliamentary elections held in Georgia on 26 October 2024, due to the scale of irregularities, such as ballot-stuffing, suppression of voter freedoms, interference with election observers and the media thereby undermining their independence, did not meet the international standards required for democratic elections and therefore were neither free nor fair. Thus the Seimas supports the European Parliament’s call for parliamentary elections to be re-run in Georgia;

strongly condemns the Georgian government’s violence against peaceful protesters in Tbilisi and elsewhere in the country, the intimidation and illegal detention of representatives of civil society and media representatives;

emphasises that the citizens of democratic states have the right to peaceful protest, and that any violations of law, public peace, public order or moral norms during protests cannot be exploited for political manipulation;

urges the national parliaments of democratic states to strongly condemn the Georgian government’s violence against peacefully protesting Georgian citizens, local and foreign journalists;

calls on the European Union and its Member States to impose personal sanctions on the officials and political leaders in Georgia directly or indirectly responsible for violent repression against the country’s civilian population;

supports the call for an independent and transparent international investigation into allegations of electoral manipulation, voter intimidation, and systemic violations reportedly occurring during the pre-election period and on election day;

welcomes the decision by the European External Action Service (EEAS) to send a technical mission to Georgia and calls on the EEAS and the Commission to establish a broad mission mandate to comprehensively assess the violations that occurred prior to election day, including the entrenched system of pressure on public officials, voter intimidation, and interference with observers of local elections;

calls on the European Union to severely limit formal EU-level contacts with the Georgian Government and Parliament and to suspend financial support for the Georgian government and state authorities, enhancing support for Georgia’s civil society and independent media accordingly;

invites the Heads of State and Government of the European Union to fully support President of Georgia Salome Zourabichvili, pending the holding of free and fair parliamentary elections recognised by the international community;

emphasises that respect for fundamental rights is vital to the European Union's visa liberalisation benchmarks and urges the Commission and the Council to review Georgia's visa-free status, with the possibility of suspension if it is considered that EU standards of democratic governance and freedoms are not being upheld;

reiterates its unwavering support for the European aspirations of the Georgian people, while noting that progress on the integration path remains halted until fundamental issues related to the core criteria for EU enlargement are comprehensively addressed.

Speaker of the Seimas

Saulius Skvernelis