

TAKEAWAYS OF THE HIGH-LEVEL MEETING BETWEEN MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION AND OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GEORGIA



The European Union
for Georgia

Brussels, 21 November 2018

ECONOMY, TRADE AND CONNECTIVITY

- **Energy efficiency:** €27 million of technical support and investments will be made available for the roll - out of energy efficiency standards in public buildings provided Georgia advances on key areas of legislation.
- **Transport Investment Action Plan:** €3.4 billion of investments for 18 priority projects (road, rail, ports, airports), of which €2 billion new investments by 2030, have been identified in the plan for Georgia to be financed from public and private funds – possibly using grants from the Neighbourhood Investment Platform leveraging financing from international financial institutions.
- **Road safety:** Georgia is invited to join the European Road Safety Charter and Europe-wide awareness raising campaigns such as the European Day Without a Road Death (EDWARD). Georgia will organise a regional Road Safety Conference in July 2019.
- **EU Macro-Financial Assistance:** €45 million are made available based on the fulfilment of a set of policy conditions in the areas of public finance management, financial sector, social and labour market policies, as well as the business environment.
- **SME's access to finance:** New programmes are being prepared to support about €100 million additional access to finance for SMEs in local currency, summing up to the € 700 million lent to more than 63,000 SMEs and micro-enterprises and farmers since 2009. The EU's External Investment Plan will allow for new investment projects in Georgia.
- **Economic and Business Development:** €49 million of EU funds are allocated to a new programme starting in 2019 which will contribute to promoting socio-economic development through a better legal system for business through faster and fairer litigations, a modernised financial system, and enhanced capacities of key institutions to deliver better services to businesses.
- **Customs legislation:** With EU support, Georgia has committed to further aligning its customs legislation and administrative methods with a view of enhancing its participation to the EU cooperation programmes including Customs 2020.
- **Scientific support to smart specialisation:** European Commission's Joint Research Centre will provide institutional capacity building assistance and support for the adoption of smart specialisation principles in Georgia.
- **Intellectual property rights:** Support will be provided to the alignment with the EU aquis notably through cooperation with the European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO).
- **Digital agenda:** The Georgian Government will adopt and implement its Broadband Strategy with the support of the EU's EU4Digital programme. In addition, dialogue and cooperation will be reinforced on trust services and e-identification through the EU4Digital regional network.
- **EU Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics (NUTS):** Technical support will be provided to analyse the introduction of NUTS in Georgia, aligning with EU practices.
- **Identification of new export products:** The Georgian government will develop a roadmap to identify new products and services where Georgia could develop further export potential. The EU will support this process by identifying regulatory gaps.
- **Agriculture and rural development:** Additional EU support is planned under a new phase of the ENPARD programme to improve living conditions of the rural population and boost export opportunities through better sanitary and phyto-sanitary measures (SPS) and food safety systems.

EDUCATION, RESEARCH, INNOVATION AND CULTURE

- Continuation of the successful **European School** based in Tbilisi through joint efforts for the launch of its second phase involving the construction of new premises and the development of specialized high school curriculum in close cooperation and with co-financing from the Government of Georgia.
- Erasmus+:** Extra €6 million are made available to foster the modernisation of higher education through capacity building projects, Jean Monnet projects and increased international mobility for 800 more Georgian students and staff. Becoming an Erasmus+ Programme Country remains a long-term objective linked to a cost-benefit analysis.
- More **mobility opportunities for Georgian researchers:** €1.5 million will support a specific scheme to further scientific excellence in Georgia, which combined with the implementation of the policy recommendations provided by the Horizon 2020 Policy Support Facility, may increase their competitiveness in EU programmes such as Horizon 2020 and its successor Horizon Europe.
- A study visit to the European Commission's **Joint Research Centre (JRC)** largest site located in Ispra (Italy) will be organised in 2019 for a delegation of policy makers, scientists and experts from Georgia in order to identify areas of cooperation.
- Skills & Jobs:** Starting in 2019, a new EU programme worth € 48 million will help to deliver lifelong learning skills, entrepreneurial learning and entrepreneurship opportunities in four Georgian regions, including specific actions in Georgia's region of Abkhazia.
- The planned launch next year of the third phase of the Eastern Partnership Culture programme will offer new opportunities for strengthening the **cultural component** of the EU-Georgia cooperation.

JUSTICE AND INTERNAL SECURITY (INCLUDING CIVIL PROTECTION)

- Fight against crime:** Within the framework of the implementation of the Operational and Strategic Cooperation Agreement in 2017, strengthened cooperation between Georgian authorities and EUROPOL is now expected, notably in the areas of fight against organised property crime, excise fraud and document fraud, where Georgian organised crime groups are particularly active.
- Judicial Cooperation in criminal matters:** Cooperation in cases of serious crime will be enhanced through the entry into force of the Agreement with EUROJUST by end 2019 following the adoption by the Council and the Parliament.
- Civil protection:** Following the signature of an Administrative Arrangement on disaster risk management with the European Commission's European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO), a Multiannual Action Plan will define joint actions to be developed as of 2019 together with the civil protection structures in Georgia.
- Georgia is encouraged to apply to calls for proposals and calls for exercises under the **Union Civil Protection Mechanism**; an advisory mission to share operational expertise will be organised to support strengthened preparedness for forest fires.
- Access to Joint Research Center's **disaster risk management tools** will continue to be made available in the area of floods, wildfires and droughts in order to meet Georgia's natural hazard priorities.
- Security and Rule of Law:** €27 million of EU funds will be deployed for actions to prevent and fight against crime, improve civil protection and enhance the oversight of the security sector. The possibility of reinforcing the component related to integrated border management will be explored.
- Reform efforts in the area of justice:** Georgia committed to increase transparency notably through the participation in the justice surveys launched by the World Bank, which will provide insights on the independence, efficiency and accountability of the national system. Georgia committed to further advance and implement judicial reforms, incl. transparency and accountability in the judiciary.
- Strategic communication:** Efforts are being stepped up to improve Georgian citizen's access to reliable information about the EU through capacity building and a media monitoring platform accessible to relevant Georgian ministries
- Cyber security:** Cooperation in the area of open data and re-use of Public sector information through the approximation of relevant EU framework, as well in the area of cyber resilience for critical infrastructure will be strengthened with EU support.