

International Conference
Economic Integration with the European Union
Prospects and opportunities

27-28 March, 2014 Tbilisi
Concept

CONCEPT/SUMMARY

The European and Euro-Atlantic integration is a cornerstone of Georgia's foreign policy. The Government of Georgia is making its best efforts to deepen the EU-integration related reforms.

The Association Agreement, including the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (DCFTA) was initiated at the Eastern Partnership (EaP) Vilnius Summit on 28-29 November 2013 and is expected to be signed before the mandate of current European Commission expires, in September 2014 at the latest.

The signature of the Association Agreement will bring the EU-Georgia relations to the qualitatively new level and is considered as an important step towards the political association and economic integration to the EU.

The Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area Agreement (DCFTA) is an important part of the Association Agreement, which implies liberalization of trade of goods and services, approximation of Georgian trade regulations and of institutions with the EU norms and standards.

The establishment of the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade area between the EU and Georgia will help to the:

- Formation of Georgian trade system compatible with the one of the EU;
- Establishment of transparent and stable business environment;
- Creation of attractive investment environment and encouragement of foreign investments;
- Creation of new jobs through stimulation of foreign investments;
- Increase of competitiveness of the Georgian products;
- Expansion the export of the Georgian products;
- Increase the quality of products in general as well as stimulation of economic growth and development of Georgian economy;

GOALS

- To raise awareness of the government and private sectors of the EU and Eastern Partnership countries on the economic policy, business environment and investment opportunities of Georgia;
- To increase visibility of the successfully implemented reforms in the framework of the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area Agreement (DCFTA);

- To share the experience between partner countries regarding economic reforms and the EU integration process;
- To discuss the main directions of economic cooperation among the EU and Eastern Partnership countries after the Vilnius Summit;
- To expand B2B Contacts with the EU member and EaP countries;
- To share the EU member countries (including new members) business sector experience about implementation of EU regulations;
- To strengthen a regional dimension of economic cooperation.

PARTNERS

- Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia
- Office of the State Minister of Georgia on European and Euro-Atlantic Integration

ORGANIZERS

- Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia
- Georgian Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- Georgian National Investments Agency (GNIA)
- Ministry of Agriculture of Georgia
- Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection of Georgia
- Partnership Fund
- EU-Georgia Business Council (EUGBC)

PARTICIPANTS

- Governmental Agencies and business community of the EU Member States and the Eastern Partnership countries;
- Representatives of the European External Action Service (EEAS) including the European Commission Directorate General for Trade (DG TRADE);
- The European Free Trade Association (EFTA) member countries Governmental Agencies and business community;
- Diplomatic corps accredited in Georgia;
- Representative of the International Financial Institutions;
- Representative of the Employers' Associations;
- Businessmen, representatives of the business associations/councils;
- Experts on European Integration and International Trade;
- Media representatives.

KEY NOTE SPEAKERS

- Representative of the Government of Georgia;
- Governmental Agencies of the EU Member States and Eastern Partnership countries;
- Think Tanks;
- Representative of the Business Associations

LOGISTICS

- Selection and invitation of participants through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia and the diplomatic corps accredited in Georgia.

BUDGET

- Engagement of the EU and International Financial Institutions;
- Meeting with potential donors aiming at securing contribution for the conference and related events.

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE/WORKING GROUP

- Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia;
- Office of the State Minister of Georgia on European and Euro-Atlantic Integration;
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia;
- Relevant Line Ministries;
- Georgian National Investments Agency (GNIA);
- Georgian Chamber of Commerce and Industry.