## Basic information

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|---|---|
| **2014/0086(NLE)**<br><br>NLE - Non-legislative enactments<br>Decision | Procedure completed |
| EU/Georgia Association Agreement<br><br>See also 2014/2816(INI)<br>See also 2015/0080(COD)<br>See also 2017/2282(INI)<br><br>**Subject**<br><br>6.20.03 Bilateral economic and trade agreements and relations<br>6.40.15 European neighbourhood policy<br><br>**Geographical area**<br><br>Georgia | |

## Key players

European Parliament

| Committee responsible | Rapporteur | Appointed |
|---|---|---|
| AFET Foreign Affairs | MAMIKINS Andrejs (S&D) | 09/07/2014 |
| | Shadow rapporteur<br>ŠTĚTINA Jaromír (PPE)<br>JUREK Marek (ECR)<br>NART Javier (ALDE) | |

| Former committee responsible | Former rapporteur | Appointed |
|---|---|---|
| AFET Foreign Affairs | | |

| Committee for opinion | Rapporteur for opinion | Appointed |
|---|---|---|
| INTA International Trade | REHN Olli (ALDE) | 03/09/2014 |
| ITRE Industry, Research and Energy | The committee decided not to give an opinion. | |

| Former committee for opinion | Former rapporteur for opinion | Appointed |
|---|---|---|
| INTA International Trade | | |

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|---|---|---|---|
| | ITRE Industry, Research and Energy | | |
| Council of the European Union | | | |
| European Commission | | | |

| Commission DG | Commissioner |
|---|---|
| European External Action Service | -- -- |
| Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations | -- -- |
| Trade and Economic Security | -- -- |

## Key events

| Date | Event | Reference | Summary |
|---|---|---|---|
| 10/03/2014 | Preparatory document | COM(2014)0149 | Summary |
| 02/06/2014 | Legislative proposal published | 09827/2014 | Summary |
| 15/09/2014 | Committee referral announced in Parliament | | |
| 17/11/2014 | Vote in committee | | |
| 20/11/2014 | Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading | A8-0041/2014 | Summary |
| 17/12/2014 | Debate in Parliament | | |
| 18/12/2014 | Decision by Parliament | T8-0111/2014 | Summary |
| 18/12/2014 | Results of vote in Parliament | | |
| 23/05/2016 | Act adopted by Council after consultation of Parliament | | |
| 23/05/2016 | End of procedure in Parliament | | |
| 28/05/2016 | Final act published in Official Journal | | |

## Technical information

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|---|---|
| **Procedure reference** | 2014/0086(NLE) |
| **Procedure type** | NLE - Non-legislative enactments |
| **Procedure subtype** | Consent by Parliament |
| **Legislative instrument** | Decision |
| **Amendments and repeals** | See also 2014/2816(INI)<br>See also 2015/0080(COD)<br>See also 2017/2282(INI) |
| **Legal basis** | Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union TFEU 218-p7<br>Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union TFEU 218-p8-a2<br>Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union TFEU 217<br>Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union TFEU 218-p6a |

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|---|---|
| **Other legal basis** | Rules of Procedure EP 165 |
| **Stage reached in procedure** | Procedure completed |
| **Committee dossier** | AFET/8/00386 |

## Documentation gateway

**European Parliament**

| Document type | Committee | Reference | Date | Summary |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Committee draft report | | PE537.339 | 29/09/2014 | |
| Committee opinion | INTA | PE537.345 | 07/11/2014 | |
| Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading | | A8-0041/2014 | 20/11/2014 | Summary |
| Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading | | T8-0111/2014 | 18/12/2014 | Summary |

**Council of the EU**

| Document type | Reference | Date | Summary |
|---|---|---|---|
| Legislative proposal | 09827/2014 | 02/06/2014 | Summary |
| Document attached to the procedure | 17901/2013 | 27/06/2014 | |

**European Commission**

| Document type | Reference | Date | Summary |
|---|---|---|---|
| Document attached to the procedure | COM(2014)0148 | 10/03/2014 | |
| Preparatory document | COM(2014)0149 | 10/03/2014 | Summary |
| For information | COM(2014)0156 | 10/03/2014 | |

## Additional information

| Source | Document | Date |
|---|---|---|
| European Commission | EUR-Lex | |

## Final act

Decision 2016/0838
OJ L 141 28.05.2016, p. 0026 Summary

# EU/Georgia Association Agreement

2014/0086(NLE) - 23/05/2016 - Final act

PURPOSE: to conclude an Association Agreement between the EU and the European Atomic Energy Community (Euratom) and their Member States, of the one part, and Georgia, of the other part.

LEGISLATIVE ACT: Council Decision (EU) 2016/838 on the conclusion, on behalf of the European Union, of the Association Agreement between the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community and their Member States, of the one part, and Georgia, of the other part.

BACKGROUND: relations between the EU and Georgia are currently based on the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement, which entered into force in July 1999.

On 10 May 2010, the Council authorised the Commission to open negotiations for a new Association Agreement, including its Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (DCFTA) part, to replace the old PCA.

Those negotiations were successfully finalised, and the Association Agreement between the EU and Euratom and their Member States, of the one part, and Georgia, of the other part was initialled on 29 November 2013.

In accordance with Council Decision 2014/494/EU, the Agreement was signed on 27 June 2014, subject to its conclusion at a later date.

The Agreement must be concluded on behalf of the EU.

CONTENT: with this Decision, the Association Agreement between the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community and their Member States, of the one part, and Georgia, of the other part, is approved on behalf of the Union.

**Objectives of the Association Agreement**: the Agreement establishes an association between the Parties, aiming at **political association and economic integration** of Georgia and leaving open the way for further progressive developments.

The overall aims of the association focus on:

- strengthening the framework for enhanced political dialogue;
- promoting, preserving and strengthening peace and stability in both the regional and international dimensions;
- promoting cooperation on peaceful conflict resolution;
- establishing conditions for enhanced economic and trade relations leading towards Georgia's gradual economic integration with the EU internal market in selected areas;
- enhancing justice, freedom and security cooperation with the aim of reinforcing the rule of law and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, and
- establishing conditions for increasingly close cooperation in other areas of mutual interest.

**Sectoral cooperation**: the Agreement also deals with several possibilities in terms of sectoral cooperation and focuses on support for essential reforms, economic growth, governance and sectoral cooperation in the following areas:

- energy and transport;
- protection of the environment;
- industrial and SME policy;
- social policy;
- justice;
- consumer policy;
- agriculture and rural development;
- education, training and youth as well as cultural cooperation.

**Approximation of legislation**: key to the sectoral cooperation chapters is a comprehensive menu of **gradual approximation of Georgian legislation with the EU acquis**, to provide a focus for on-going cooperation, and provide a reform and modernisation agenda.

**Free trade area**: a free trade area between the EU and Georgia is envisaged. Approximation of Georgia with EU legislation, norms and standards, will be the method.

**Geographical indications**: the Agreement sets out the relevant procedures for the protection of geographical indications that are given protection pursuant to the Agreement. The Agreement should not be construed as conferring rights or imposing obligations that can be directly invoked before Union or Member State courts and tribunals.

It is stipulated that a name protected under the “Geographical Indications” of the Agreement may be used by any operator marketing agricultural products, foodstuffs, wines, aromatised wines or spirits conforming to the corresponding specification.

Member States and the institutions of the Union shall enforce the protection provided for in the Agreement, including at the request of an interested party.

**Institutional framework**: the Agreement includes an updated institutional framework encompassing cooperation and dialogue fora. Specific decision-making roles are envisaged for an Association Council, and by delegation for an Association Committee, which may also meet in a specific

configuration to address trade issues. Provision for fora for civil society and parliamentary cooperation is also made. The Agreement includes provisions on monitoring, fulfilment of obligations and dispute settlement (including separate provisions for trade-related issues).

ENTRY INTO FORCE: the Decision enters into force on 23.05.2016.

# EU/Georgia Association Agreement

2014/0086(NLE) - 10/03/2014

PURPOSE: to conclude the Association Agreement between the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community and their Member States, of the one part, and Georgia, of the other part.

PROPOSED ACT: Council Decision.

ROLE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT: the Council may adopt the act only if Parliament has given its consent to the act.

BACKGROUND: relations between the EU and Georgia are currently based on the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement which entered into force in July 1999. On 10 May 2010, the Council authorised the Commission to open negotiations for a new Association Agreement, including its **Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (DCFTA)** part, to replace the old PCA.

Negotiations of this comprehensive and ambitious Agreement between the EU and Georgia were launched in July 2010. Negotiations on the DCFTA part of the Agreement were launched in February 2012.

The Association Agreement aims to accelerate the deepening of political and economic relations between Georgia and the EU, as well as to **advance Georgia's gradual economic integration with the EU Internal Market in selected areas**, notably through establishing a DCFTA.

On 29 November 2013 the EU and Georgia initialled the text of the Agreement.

The Agreement should now be approved on behalf of the EU.

CONTENT: this proposal calls on the Council to approve on behalf of the EU the Association Agreement between the EU and the European Atomic Energy Community and their Member States, of the one part, and Georgia, of the other part.

**Objectives of the Association Agreement**: the Agreement establishes an association between the Parties, aiming at **political association and economic integration** and leaving open the way for further progressive developments.

The overall aims of the association focus on:

- promoting a gradual rapprochement between the parties on the basis of common values;
- strengthening the framework for enhanced political dialogue;
- promoting, preserving and strengthening peace and stability in both the regional and international dimensions;
- promoting cooperation on peaceful conflict resolution ;
- establishing conditions for enhanced economic and trade relations leading towards Georgia's gradual economic integration with the EU internal market in selected areas;
- enhancing justice, freedom and security cooperation with the aim of reinforcing the rule of law and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, and
- establishing conditions for increasingly close cooperation in other areas of mutual interest.

**Sectoral cooperation**: the Association Agreement also provides for a wide range of sectoral cooperation, focusing on support to core reforms, economic recovery and growth, governance and sector cooperation in 28 areas, such as :

- public administration reform,
- management of public finances,
- energy and transport,
- environmental protection and direct action,
- industrial and small and medium enterprise cooperation,
- social policies,
- consumer protection,
- agriculture and rural development,

- cross-border and regional level cooperation,
- education and training,
- civil society cooperation and youth as well as cultural cooperation.

In all of these areas, enhanced cooperation starts from the basis of current frameworks, both bilateral and multilateral, with the aim of **more systematic dialogue and exchange of information and good practice.**

**Gradual approximation of legislation**: key to the sectoral cooperation chapters is gradual approximation with the EU acquis set out in the annexes to the Agreement. **Specific schedules for approximation and implementation by Georgia** of selected parts of the EU acquis will form the core of Georgia's domestic reform and modernisation agenda.

**DCFTA**: closer economic integration through the DCFTA will be a powerful stimulant to the country's economic growth. Approximation of Georgia with EU legislation, norms and standards, will be the method. As a core element of the Association Agreement, the DCFTA will create business opportunities in both the EU and Georgia and will promote real economic modernisation and gradual integration with the EU. Higher standards of products, better services to citizens, and above all Georgia's ability to compete effectively in international markets should be the result of this process.

**Geographical indications**: provision is made to **protect EU geographical indications**. A name protected under the Agreement may be used by any operator marketing agricultural products, foodstuffs, wines, aromatised wines or spirits conforming to the corresponding specification.

**Institutional framework**: the Agreement includes an updated institutional framework encompassing cooperation and dialogue fora. Specific decision-making roles are envisaged for Association Council, and by delegation for an Association Committee, which may also meet in a specific configuration to address trade issues. Space for civil society and parliamentary cooperation is also provided.

The Agreement also includes provisions on monitoring, approximation, fulfilment of obligations and dispute settlement (including separate provisions for trade-related matters).

**Provisional application**: in line with Article 429 of the Association Agreement, parts of the Agreement will apply provisionally. This provisional application will keep mutual economic interests and shared values in equilibrium, and reflects the common will of the EU and Georgia to start implementing the relevant parts of the Agreement in order to advance an early reform impact on sector specific issues before the conclusion of the Agreement.

# EU/Georgia Association Agreement

2014/0086(NLE) - 20/11/2014 - Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading

The Committee on Foreign Affairs adopted the report by Andrejs MAMIKINS (S&D, LV) on the draft Council decision on the conclusion, on behalf of the European Union, of the Association Agreement between the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community and their Member States, of the one part, and Georgia, of the other part.

Members recalled that the Association Agreement (AA) aims to create the most ambitious free trade agreement that the EU has ever negotiated with a third country, save for countries of the European Economic Area.

By establishing a Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (DCFTA) with the EU, Georgia should increase its market access to the largest economic block, by taking binding commitments on the adoption of laws, standards and common values, whereas the EU will benefit from smoother commercial flows and better investment conditions in Georgia.

It is expected that the DCFTA will boost trade between the EU and Georgia – by 12% as regards Georgia’s exports to the EU, and by 7.5% on imports from the EU.

The Agreement, as a whole, is expected to improve the current account balance of Georgia and boost the GDP by 4.3% (EUR 292 million in national income), provided that the reforms are completed.

Therefore, Members recommended that the European Parliament give its consent to the conclusion of the Agreement.

# EU/Georgia Association Agreement

2014/0086(NLE) - 18/12/2014 - Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading

The European Parliament adopted by 490 votes to 76, with 57 abstentions, a legislative resolution on the draft Council decision on the conclusion, on behalf of the European Union, of the Association Agreement between the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community and their Member States, of the one part, and Georgia, of the other part.

Parliament gave its consent to the conclusion of the Agreement.

# EU/Georgia Association Agreement

2014/0086(NLE) - 10/03/2014 - Preparatory document

PURPOSE: to conclude the Association Agreement between the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community and their Member States, of the one part, and Georgia, of the other part.

PROPOSED ACT: Council Decision.

ROLE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT: the Council may adopt the act only if Parliament has given its consent to the act.

BACKGROUND: relations between the EU and Georgia are currently based on the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement which entered into force in July 1999. On 10 May 2010, the Council authorised the Commission to open negotiations for a new Association Agreement, including its **Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (DCFTA)** part, to replace the old PCA.

Negotiations of this comprehensive and ambitious Agreement between the EU and Georgia were launched in July 2010. Negotiations on the DCFTA part of the Agreement were launched in February 2012.

The Association Agreement aims to accelerate the deepening of political and economic relations between Georgia and the EU, as well as to **advance Georgia's gradual economic integration with the EU Internal Market in selected areas**, notably through establishing a DCFTA.

On 29 November 2013 the EU and Georgia initialled the text of the Agreement.

The Agreement should now be approved on behalf of the EU.

CONTENT: this proposal calls on the Council to approve on behalf of the EU the Association Agreement between the EU and the European Atomic Energy Community and their Member States, of the one part, and Georgia, of the other part.

**Objectives of the Association Agreement**: the Agreement establishes an association between the Parties, aiming at **political association and economic integration** and leaving open the way for further progressive developments.

The overall aims of the association focus on:

- promoting a gradual rapprochement between the parties on the basis of common values;
- strengthening the framework for enhanced political dialogue;
- promoting, preserving and strengthening peace and stability in both the regional and international dimensions;
- promoting cooperation on peaceful conflict resolution ;
- establishing conditions for enhanced economic and trade relations leading towards Georgia's gradual economic integration with the EU internal market in selected areas;
- enhancing justice, freedom and security cooperation with the aim of reinforcing the rule of law and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, and
- establishing conditions for increasingly close cooperation in other areas of mutual interest.

**Sectoral cooperation**: the Association Agreement also provides for a wide range of sectoral cooperation, focusing on support to core reforms, economic recovery and growth, governance and sector cooperation in 28 areas, such as :

- public administration reform,
- management of public finances,
- energy and transport,
- environmental protection and direct action,
- industrial and small and medium enterprise cooperation,
- social policies,
- consumer protection,
- agriculture and rural development,
- cross-border and regional level cooperation,
- education and training,
- civil society cooperation and youth as well as cultural cooperation.

In all of these areas, enhanced cooperation starts from the basis of current frameworks, both bilateral and multilateral, with the aim of **more systematic dialogue and exchange of information and good practice.**

**Gradual approximation of legislation**: key to the sectoral cooperation chapters is gradual approximation with the EU acquis set out in the annexes to the Agreement. **Specific schedules for approximation and implementation by Georgia** of selected parts of the EU acquis will form the core of Georgia's domestic reform and modernisation agenda.

**DCFTA**: closer economic integration through the DCFTA will be a powerful stimulant to the country's economic growth. Approximation of Georgia with EU legislation, norms and standards, will be the method. As a core element of the Association Agreement, the DCFTA will create business opportunities in both the EU and Georgia and will promote real economic modernisation and gradual integration with the EU. Higher standards of products, better services to citizens, and above all Georgia's ability to compete effectively in international markets should be the result of this process.

**Geographical indications**: provision is made to **protect EU geographical indications**. A name protected under the Agreement may be used by any operator marketing agricultural products, foodstuffs, wines, aromatised wines or spirits conforming to the corresponding specification.

**Institutional framework**: the Agreement includes an updated institutional framework encompassing cooperation and dialogue fora. Specific decision-making roles are envisaged for Association Council, and by delegation for an Association Committee, which may also meet in a specific configuration to address trade issues. Space for civil society and parliamentary cooperation is also provided.

The Agreement also includes provisions on monitoring, approximation, fulfilment of obligations and dispute settlement (including separate provisions for trade-related matters).

**Provisional application**: in line with Article 429 of the Association Agreement, parts of the Agreement will apply provisionally. This provisional application will keep mutual economic interests and shared values in equilibrium, and reflects the common will of the EU and Georgia to start implementing the relevant parts of the Agreement in order to advance an early reform impact on sector specific issues before the conclusion of the Agreement.

# EU/Georgia Association Agreement

2014/0086(NLE) - 02/06/2014 - Legislative proposal

PURPOSE: to conclude the Association Agreement between the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community and their Member States, of the one part, and Georgia, of the other part.

PROPOSED ACT: Council Decision.

ROLE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT: Council may adopt the act only if Parliament has given its consent to the act.

BACKGROUND: on 10 May 2010, the Council authorised the Commission to open negotiations with Georgia for the conclusion of a new Agreement between the Union and Georgia to replace the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement.

Those negotiations were successfully finalised, and the Association Agreement between the European Union and the EURATOM and their Member States, of the one part, and Georgia, of the other part was initialled on 29 November 2013.

In accordance with a Council Decision, the Agreement was signed subject to its conclusion at a later date.

It is now necessary to conclude this Agreement on behalf of the European Union.

CONTENT: under this proposal, the Council is called upon to approve the Association Agreement between the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community and their Member States, of the one part, and Georgia, of the other part on behalf of the Union.

**Objectives of the Association Agreement**: the draft Agreement establishes an association between the Parties, aiming at **political association and economic integration** of Georgia and leaving open the way for further progressive developments.

The overall aims of the association focus on:

- strengthening the framework for enhanced political dialogue;
- promoting, preserving and strengthening peace and stability in both the regional and international dimensions;
- promoting cooperation on peaceful conflict resolution;
- establishing conditions for enhanced economic and trade relations leading towards Georgia's gradual economic integration with the EU internal market in selected areas;
- enhancing justice, freedom and security cooperation with the aim of reinforcing the rule of law and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, and
- establishing conditions for increasingly close cooperation in other areas of mutual interest.

For further details of the objectives of the Agreement, please refer to the summary of the *initial Commission legislative proposal from 14/03/2014*.

**Geographical indications**: the draft Agreement sets out the relevant procedures for the protection of geographical indications which are given protection pursuant to the Agreement. The Agreement should not be construed as conferring rights or imposing obligations which can be directly invoked before Union or Member State courts and tribunals.

It is stipulated that a name protected under the “Geographical Indications” of the Agreement may be used by any operator marketing agricultural products, foodstuffs, wines, aromatised wines or spirits conforming to the corresponding specification.

The Member States and the institutions of the Union shall enforce the protection provided for in the Agreement, including at the request of an interested party.

**On a procedural note**, modifications to the Agreement through decisions of the Geographical Indications Sub-Committee shall be approved by the Commission on behalf of the Union.

Where interested parties cannot reach agreement following objections relating to a geographical indication, the Commission shall adopt a position on the basis of the specific procedure.