Basic information

2019/2200(INI) INI - Own-initiative procedure	Procedure completed
Annual implementing report on the EU association agreement with Georgia **Subject** 6.20.03 Bilateral economic and trade agreements and relations 6.40.15 European neighbourhood policy **Geographical area** Georgia	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
AFET Foreign Affairs	MIKSER Sven (S&D)	06/11/2019
	Shadow rapporteur BOCSKOR Andrea (EPP) PAET Urmas (Renew) GREGOROVÁ Markéta (Greens/EFA) FOTYGA Anna (ECR) MARIANI Thierry (ID) WALLACE Mick (GUE/NGL)	

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
INTA International Trade	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
19/12/2019	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
13/07/2020	Vote in committee		
17/07/2020	Committee report tabled for plenary	A9-0136/2020	Summary
14/09/2020	Debate in Parliament		

16/09/2020	Decision by Parliament	T9-0221/2020	Summary
17/09/2020	End of procedure in Parliament		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2019/2200(INI)
Procedure type	INI - Own-initiative procedure
Procedure subtype	Implementation
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 55
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	AFET/9/02096

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee draft report		PE648.608	23/03/2020	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE650.567	26/05/2020	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A9-0136/2020	17/07/2020	Summary
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T9-0221/2020	16/09/2020	Summary

Annual implementing report on the EU association agreement with Georgia

2019/2200(INI) - 17/07/2020 - Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading

The Committee on Foreign Affairs adopted the own-initiative report by Sven MIKSER (S&D, EE) on the implementation of the EU Association Agreement with Georgia.

The report highlighted the entry into force of its revised Constitution in December 2018 concluded Georgia's transition to a full parliamentarian system. It noted that progress has been made in the implementation of the Association Agreement between the EU and Georgia (AA), including the move to a fully proportional electoral system as of 2024.

Members welcomed the continuous deepening of EU-Georgia relations and the firm support that Georgia's chosen path of European and Euro-Atlantic integration enjoys across the political spectrum and in society. They reiterated, however, the need to continue implementing and monitoring reforms under the AA and Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (DCFTA).

The report reaffirmed the EU's commitment to continue to contribute to the peaceful resolution of the Russia-Georgia conflict. It strongly condemned the illegal occupation of the Georgian regions of Abkhazia and Tskhinvali/South Ossetia by the Russian Federation. Members stressed that these violations of international law need to be stopped.

Visa liberalisation

Members welcomed the fact that Georgian citizens have made 900 000 visa-free visits to Schengen and Schengen-associated countries since March 2017. They stressed the importance of continuous implementation of the visa liberalisation benchmarks by Georgia and of increased cooperation between the Georgian judicial authorities and enforcement agencies and the Member States for reducing cross-border crime, particularly human trafficking and the trafficking of illegal drugs.

Political dialogue and parliamentary elections

Members welcomed the fact that the Parliament of Georgia started to deliberate on the reforms to the electoral system as soon as the state of emergency was lifted and successfully adopted the amendments to the Constitution and electoral code. They congratulated Georgia for the steps it has taken towards establishing a more representative parliament and depolarising the political environment.

The Georgian authorities and the Election Administration of Georgia are encouraged to ensure a safe environment for the October 2020 parliamentary elections by providing personal protective equipment for election personnel, adapting the voting facilities to guarantee the health and safety of the citizens taking part, and ensuring that the election observers may carry out their work undisturbed.

Rule of law, good governance and media freedom

The committee noted Georgia's progress with its reforms, which strengthen democracy, the rule of law, human rights and fundamental freedoms and encouraged the Georgian Government to consolidate the rule of law and to continue to pursue justice reform, the fight against corruption and state capture, public administration reform, decentralisation and good governance.

Members emphasised the importance of a depoliticised judiciary free from political interference and of respect for transparency, meritocracy and accountability in the appointment of judges for the Supreme Court of Georgia and other judicial institutions.

As regards the media, the need for clear provisions regulating free and paid advertisements and for improved transparency of media ownership through strengthened media monitoring was stressed. The Georgian Government is called on to cooperate with EU institutions on best practices against disinformation.

Respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms

Members deplored the constant violations by the Russian Federation, which exercises effective control over the Georgian regions of Abkhazia and Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia, of the fundamental rights of the people in these occupied regions, who are being deprived of the freedom of movement and residence, the right to property and the right of access to education in their native language. They reiterated its full support for the safe and dignified return home of internally displaced persons and refugees.

Concern has been expressed that the continuous and illegal 'borderisation' process has particularly detrimental effects in the context of the ongoing fight against the COVID-19 pandemic, because the restriction of freedom of movement is depriving people of access to the necessary medical services.

Institutional provisions

The report emphasised the need to improve the political climate and build trust among all political and institutional actors, as well as between them and the Georgian people. The Parliament of Georgia is encouraged to strengthen its capacities to exercise parliamentary control mechanisms, particularly control over the security system.

Economic and trade relations

Members noted that the EU is Georgia's main trading partner, accounting for 27 % of its total trade and welcomed the continued approximation of Georgia's legislation in trade-related areas. They highlighted, however, the need to strengthen the rule of law, by fighting corruption, money laundering and tax evasion and by supporting approximation to EU standards.

Recalling that the EU-Georgia AA/DCFTA aims to gradually integrate Georgia into the single market, Members underlined the importance of structural reforms to further improve the investment climate in Georgia, including for attracting foreign direct investment and ensuring transparency thereof.

On labour legislation, the Georgian Government is encouraged to continue its comprehensive reform so as to ensure better regulation of working conditions, including continued improvements in labour inspections and social dialogue.

Climate change

Members called on Georgia to further enhance its engagement in the fight against climate change and called on the Commission to facilitate Georgia's participation in the European Green Deal and to ensure that the DCFTA does not contradict the environmental objectives and initiatives set out therein. Improvements should also be made in its energy sector.

Annual implementing report on the EU association agreement with Georgia

2019/2200(INI) - 16/09/2020 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted by 552 votes to 61, with 78 abstentions, a resolution on the implementation of the EU Association Agreement with Georgia.

The entry into force of its revised Constitution in December 2018 concluded Georgia's transition to a full parliamentarian system. Progress has been made in the implementation of the Association Agreement between the EU and Georgia (AA), including the move to a fully proportional electoral system as of 2024.

Parliament welcomed the continuous deepening of EU-Georgia relations and the firm support that Georgia's chosen path of European and Euro-Atlantic integration enjoys across the political spectrum and in society. It reiterated, however, the need to continue implementing and monitoring reforms under the AA and Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (DCFTA).

Parliament reaffirmed the EU's commitment to continue to contribute to the peaceful resolution of the Russia-Georgia conflict. It strongly condemned the illegal occupation of the Georgian regions of Abkhazia and Tskhinvali/South Ossetia by the Russian Federation. Members stressed that these violations of international law need to be stopped.

Georgia's role as a reliable partner of the EU and a significant contributor to the missions and operations of the common security and defence policy (CSDP) and NATO was underlined.

Visa liberalisation

Members welcomed the fact that Georgian citizens have made 900 000 visa-free visits to Schengen and Schengen-associated countries since March 2017. They stressed the importance of continuous implementation of the visa liberalisation benchmarks by Georgia and of increased cooperation between the Georgian judicial authorities and enforcement agencies and the Member States for reducing cross-border crime, particularly human trafficking and the trafficking of illegal drugs.

Political dialogue and parliamentary elections

Members welcomed the fact that the Georgian Parliament started to deliberate on the reforms to the electoral system as soon as the state of emergency was lifted and successfully adopted the amendments to the Constitution and electoral code. They congratulated Georgia for the steps it has taken towards establishing a more representative parliament and depolarising the political environment.

The Georgian authorities and the Election Administration of Georgia are encouraged to ensure a safe environment for the October 2020 parliamentary elections by providing personal protective equipment for election personnel, adapting the voting facilities to guarantee the health and safety of the citizens taking part, and ensuring that the election observers may carry out their work undisturbed.

Rule of law, good governance and media freedom

Parliament welcomed Georgia's progress with its reforms, which strengthen democracy, the rule of law, human rights and fundamental freedoms and encouraged the Georgian Government to consolidate the rule of law and to continue to pursue justice reform, the fight against corruption and state capture, public administration reform, decentralisation and good governance.

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Concern has been expressed that the continuous and illegal 'borderisation' process has particularly detrimental effects in the context of the ongoing fight against the COVID-19 pandemic, because the restriction of freedom of movement is depriving people of access to the necessary medical services.

Parliament called for increased efforts to combat discrimination against women, LGBT persons, Roma and religious minorities in the social, economic, labour and health areas and to step up the investigation and prosecution of hate speech and violent crimes against minorities.

Economic and trade relations

Members noted that the EU is Georgia's main trading partner, accounting for 27 % of its total trade and welcomed the continued approximation of Georgia's legislation in trade-related areas. They, however, called for the development and diversification of Georgian exports to the EU beyond agricultural products and raw materials and for attracting EU investment in Georgia while strengthening the rule of law, fighting corruption, money laundering and tax evasion.

The Commission is invited to engage more vigorously in setting a firm target for Georgia's entry into the single market.

On labour legislation, the Georgian Government is encouraged to continue its comprehensive reform so as to ensure better regulation of working conditions, including continued improvements in labour inspections and social dialogue.

Climate change

Members called on Georgia to further enhance its engagement in the fight against climate change and called on the Commission to facilitate Georgia's participation in the European Green Deal and to ensure that the DCFTA does not contradict the environmental objectives and initiatives set out therein. Improvements should also be made in its energy sector.