



საქართველოს სახელმწიფო მინისტრი
ეკონომიკურ და ევროატლანტიკურ სტრუქტურებში
ინტეგრაციის საკითხებში

STATE MINISTER OF GEORGIA
ON EUROPEAN AND EURO-ATLANTIC INTEGRATION

№ 11/755

11 02 2014

Mr. Boštjan Skalar

Acting Director, SPIRIT - Public Agency

For the Promotion of Entrepreneurship, Innovation, Development, Investment and Tourism
Republic of Slovenia

Dear Mr. Skalar,

It is my pleasure to invite you to the International Conference and the Business Forum "Economic Integration with the European Union – Prospects and Opportunities" to be held in Tbilisi on 27-28 March 2014. The event is co-organised by the Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia.

Allow me to underline that the initialing of the EU-Georgia Association Agreement, including the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (DCFTA) at the Eastern Partnership Vilnius Summit on 29 November 2013 was a significant step forward in Georgia's integration with the EU.


At this stage, we are starting the important and extensive phase of the implementation of the AA/DCFTA. Therefore, the Conference could become an excellent forum for the state institutions and private sector of the EU and the Eastern Partnership countries to share best practices, receive information on Georgia's economic policy, business environment and investment opportunities, also to increase the visibility of successful reforms in the framework of the DCFTA, discuss the main directions of economic cooperation in Eastern Europe following the Vilnius Summit as well as facilitate business to business contacts.

The concept and the programmes of the event are enclosed. Please confirm your participation before 5 March 2014 at conference@eu-nato.gov.ge. Our Office will be pleased to assist you in providing additional information on the Conference.

Looking forward to meeting you in Tbilisi!

Sincerely,

Alex Petriashvili


ინგოროკვა ქ. № 7, 0134, თბილისი; ტელ: +99532 2932867; ფაქსი: +99532 2932867
7, Ingorokva str. 0134 Tbilisi, Tel: +99532 2932867; Fax: +99532 2932867
ელ-ფოსტა/E-mail: office@eu-nato.gov.ge; ვებ-გვერდი/Web: www.eu-nato.gov.ge

International Conference

**Economic Integration with the European Union
Prospects and Opportunities**

26-28 March 2014

*Exhibition and Convention Centre – ExpoGeorgia
Tbilisi, Georgia*

Concept

CONCEPT/SUMMARY

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

The EU-Georgia Association Agreement, including the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area Agreement (DCFTA) was initialled at the Eastern Partnership (EaP) Vilnius Summit on 29 November 2013 and is expected to be signed by August 2014, before the expiry of the term of the current European Commission.

The signature of the Association Agreement will bring the EU-Georgia relations to a historically unprecedented, qualitatively new level of cooperation and will represent a significant step towards further political association and economic integration with the EU.

The Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area Agreement is an integral part of the Association Agreement, which implies liberalization of trade of goods and services, as well as approximation of Georgian trade-related regulations and institutions with the EU norms and standards.

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

- Formation of the EU compatible trade system;
- Creation of attractive investment environment and consequent encouragement of foreign investments;

- Creation of new jobs through stimulation of foreign investments;
- Increase of competitiveness of Georgian products;
- Increase of Georgian export;
- Improvement of quality of Georgian products;
- Stimulation of Georgia' economic growth and economic development in general.

GOALS

- Raising awareness among governments and private sectors of the EU and the Eastern Partnership countries about Georgia's economic policy, business environment and investment opportunities;
- Increasing visibility of successfully implemented reforms in the framework of the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area Agreement;
- Sharing experience with partner countries regarding economic reforms and the economic integration with the EU;
- Discussing the post Vilnius Summit economic cooperation trends among the EU and the Eastern Partnership countries;
- Facilitating business to business contacts;
- Sharing best practices between representatives of the Georgian and the EU business community regarding implementation of activities related to approximation with the EU regulations;
- Strengthening regional dimension of economic cooperation.

ORGANISERS

- Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia;
- Office of the State Minister of Georgia on European and Euro-Atlantic Integration;
- Georgian National Investments Agency (GNIA).

PARTNERS

- Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia;
- Ministry of Agriculture of Georgia;
- Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection of Georgia;
- EU-Georgia Business Council (EUGBC).

PARTICIPANTS

- Government agencies and business community of the EU and the Eastern Partnership countries;
- Representatives of the European Commission including the European External Action Service (EEAS) and Directorate General for Trade (DG TRADE);
- Representatives of the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) Member States` government agencies and business communities;
- Diplomatic corps accredited in Georgia;
- Representatives of the International Financial Institutions;
- Businessmen as well as representatives of the business associations/councils;
- Experts on European integration and international trade;
- Local and international media representatives.

KEY NOTE SPEAKERS

- Representatives of the Government of Georgia;
- Representatives of the EU institutions;
- Representatives of government agencies of the EU Member States and the Eastern Partnership countries;
- Representatives of think tanks;
- Representatives of business associations.

AGENDA OF THE EVENTS

27 March 2014

- Conference

28 March 2014

- Business Forum
- Exhibition on investment opportunities (Business Fair)
- Thematic exhibitions
- Opportunities for bilateral meetings

International Conference

**Economic Integration with the European Union
Prospects and Opportunities**

26-28 March 2014

*Exhibition and Convention Centre – ExpoGeorgia
Tbilisi, Georgia*

26 March

20:00 – Welcome Reception (*National Youth and Children Palace of Georgia*)

27 March

09:30 – 10:00 Registration, coffee/tea

10:00 – 10:30 Opening of the Conference

Welcome Remarks: Mr. Alex Petriashvili – State Minister of Georgia on European and Euro-Atlantic Integration

Opening Addresses:

1. H.E. Mr. Irakli Garibashvili – Prime Minister of Georgia
2. H.E. Mr. Algirdas Butkevičius – Prime Minister of the Republic of Lithuania (tbc)
3. Mr. George Kvirikashvili – Vice Prime Minister of Georgia, Minister of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia

10:30 – 11:30 Session I – Prospects for Deepening Economic Cooperation in the Framework of the Eastern Partnership

Format: Moderated discussion

Panelists:

Followed by Q&A

11:30 – 12:00 Break (coffee/tea)

12:00 – 13:00 Session II – The EU's Economic Potential and Its Impact on the Eastern Partnership

Format: Moderated discussion

Panelists:

Followed by Q&A

13:00 – 14:30 Lunch

14:00 – 15:00 Session III – The Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area Agreement (DCFTA) Related Reforms, Prospects for Modernization and Increased Competitiveness

Format: Moderated discussion

Panelists:

Followed by Q&A

15:30 – 16:00 Break (coffee/tea)

16:00 – 17:00 Session IV – Sectoral Integration

Format: Moderated discussion

Panelists:

Followed by Q&A

20:00 – Gala Dinner *by invitations (Funicular Restaurant)*

**Business Forum
&
Exhibition of Georgian Manufacturing Companies**

28 March 2014
Exhibition and Convention Centre – “ExpoGeorgia”
Tbilisi, Georgia

28 March

10:00 – 10:45 Registration, coffee/tea

11:00 – 11:30 Opening of the Business Forum

Welcome Remarks:

1. Mr. George Kvirikashvili – Vice Prime Minister of Georgia, Minister of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia
2. EU Representative
3. Mr. Kakha Kaladze – Vice Prime Minister of Georgia, Minister of Energy of Georgia
4. Mr. Alex Petriashvili - State Minister of Georgia on European and Euro-Atlantic Integration

Moderator: Mr. Giorgi Pertaia – Director, Georgian National Investment Agency

Presentations:

11:30 – 12:00 Investment Climate and Opportunities in Georgia

Mr. Giorgi Pertaia – Director, Georgian National Investment Agency

Q&A

12:00 – 12:30 Investment Opportunities in Energy Sector

Mr. Ilia Eloshvili (tbc) - Deputy Minister of Energy of Georgia

Q&A

12:30 – 13:00 Investment Opportunities in Agriculture Sector

Mr. Davit Natroshvili (tbc) – Deputy Minister of Agriculture of Georgia

Q&A

13:00 – 14:00 Lunch

Company Presentations:

14:10 – 14:30 - “HeidelbergCement” Georgia

14:30 – 14:50 - “Bank Republic” Société Générale Group

15:10 – 15:30 - “Asseco Group”

15:30 – 15:50 - Chateau Mukhrani / Schuchmann Wines Georgia

16:30 – 17:30 Visit to the Public Service Hall

18:30 – 21:30 Closing Ceremony - Gala Dinner