



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
NEIGHBOURHOOD AND ENLARGEMENT NEGOTIATIONS

C - Neighbourhood East and Institution Building
C.1 - Georgia, Moldova, Economic and Investment Plan

Brussels
NEAR.C1/AI

Dear lecturers of the Higher Educational Institutions of Georgia,

Thank you for your letter of 9 June 2023 to the President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen. President of the Council Charles Michel has also received the letter. I was asked to reply to you.

The European Union has engaged with Georgia since its independence, and our relations have intensified substantially over the last decades. One of the most significant achievements was the signature of the Association Agreement and its Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (AA/DCFTA) in 2014, bringing cooperation to a new high and strengthening economic and political ties.

On 23-24 June 2022 the European Council took the historic decision to grant Georgia a European perspective. Georgia has currently a unique opportunity to advance on its European path. Advancing on this European path depends on Georgia and the merits of its accomplishments.

Since the European Council decision, the European Commission has been closely following the steps taken by Georgia to address the 12 priorities of the European Commission's Opinion. The European Commission is supporting Georgia in tackling these priorities where requested. An oral update was provided to the Council in June. A full report on Georgia's implementation of the 12 priorities will be published as part of the Commission's annual enlargement package in the autumn. Ultimately, the decision to grant candidate status lies with the Member States.

Please rest assured that the European Union will continue supporting Georgia on its European path, therefore responding to the will of a large majority of Georgian citizens.

I would like to thank for your important role in fostering good relations between the EU and Georgia.

Yours sincerely,

Diana JABLONSKA

Head of Unit