



The President

Brussels, 25. 02. 2026
Ares (2025) 8431122

Dear co-signatories,

I would like to thank you for your joint letter outlining your concerns regarding the ongoing political developments in Georgia.

Please allow me to stress that the EU will continue all efforts towards a democratic, stable, and European future for the Georgian people. We will continue to urge all political actors in Georgia to work towards this objective.

Concerning the recent negative developments in Georgia, the EU has reacted firmly, calling on the Georgian authorities to release all journalists, activists, and those unjustly detained. We have voiced our concerns over the election irregularities, violence against peaceful protesters, the adoption of repressive legislation, and the instrumentalization of the justice system as a tool of repression. These actions run counter to the EU's core values and principles.

In reaction to the ongoing developments, the Commission has taken appropriate measures, including halting bilateral financial support to the authorities and downgrading of our political contacts. In addition, based on the Commission's proposal, the Council imposed a partial suspension of the visa facilitation agreement with Georgia, affecting holders of Georgian diplomatic and service passports. Georgia's accession process remains halted de facto, as already concluded by the European Council in June and October 2024.

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In the latest visa suspension mechanism report published on 19 December 2025, the Commission concluded that Georgia has regressed further on key benchmarks concerning governance, the rule-of-law, visa alignment and the fight against corruption, which form the basis for granting visa-free travel. Given the systemic and deliberate nature of this backsliding, the Commission has launched the procedure for further measures under the revised Visa Suspension Mechanism. According to the new rules, in the first phase, the visa suspension would target holders of diplomatic, service, and official passports issued by the Georgian authorities, ensuring a uniform application of the suspension in all Member States. In the second stage, the suspension could be extended to the entire population if issues are not addressed by the Georgian authorities.

Member States have been discussing potential further measures in Georgia. While no consensus on sanctions has been reached by Member States, discussions continue regarding holding those responsible for democratic backsliding and human rights abuses accountable. All decisions on EU sanctions are taken unanimously by Member States in the Council.

The EU remains committed to supporting democratic principles, human rights, and the rule of law in Georgia. Rest assured that the EU continues to stand firmly with the Georgian people and their aspirations for a European future.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ursula von der Leyen', written in a cursive style.

Ursula von der Leyen