



*Saeima of the Republic of Latvia
European Affairs Committee*

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Riga, 14 June, 2024

Statement

**on the Georgian Law on Transparency of Foreign Influence and
the Georgian Euro-Atlantic Course**

The European Affairs Committee of the Saeima of the Republic of Latvia,

Having regard to the statement by the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and the Commissioner for Neighbourhood and Enlargement of 17 April 2024 on the Law on Transparency of Foreign Influence;

Having regard to the European Council conclusions of 14 and 15 December 2023;

Having regard to the European Commission's Communication on EU Enlargement Policy of 8 November 2023;

Having regard to the European Convention on Human Rights;

Having regard to the urgent opinion on the Law on Transparency of Foreign Influence published by the European Commission for Democracy through Law (the Venice Commission) on 21 May 2024;

Whereas the exercise of the freedom of opinion, expression, association, and peaceful assembly is a fundamental right enshrined in the Constitution of Georgia;

Having regard to the adoption by the Georgian Parliament on 14 May 2024 of the Law on Transparency of Foreign Influence, whose provisions restrict the activities of non-governmental organisations receiving foreign funding, in particular in the areas of democracy, human rights, and the rule of law;

Having regard to the fact that on 18 May 2024 the President of Georgia vetoed the text adopted by the Georgian Parliament;

Having regard to the fact that the Georgian Parliament overturned the veto of the President of Georgia on 28 May 2024 and that the Speaker of the Parliament signed the Law on Transparency of Foreign Influence on 3 June 2024;

Whereas Georgia, as a candidate country for accession to the European Union, must fulfil the nine conditions set out in the European Commission recommendation of 8 November 2023, which calls on Georgia to ensure that civil society is able to operate freely (condition No 9) and to fight disinformation against the EU and its values (condition No 1);

Considering that the so-called Foreign Agents Law is incompatible with the democratic values and principles of the European Union, violating several conditions of the European Commission's recommendation on the candidate status of Georgia,

Reaffirms its unwavering support for the legitimate aspirations of the Georgian people towards Europe and their desire to live in a prosperous and democratic country that fights corruption, protects human rights, and respects the independence of the media;

Underlines that the Law is incompatible with the EU values and democratic principles, contradicts Georgia's EU aspirations, damages Georgia's international reputation, and undermines the country's Euro-Atlantic integration;

Condemns the targeting of demonstrators by the police and organised groups, the arbitrary arrests and attempts to intimidate the opposition and representatives of civil society;

Supports the right of the Georgian people to demonstrate and express their views freely without endangering their safety;

Stresses that EU accession negotiations should not be opened as long as this Law is part of Georgia's legislative framework and as long as Georgia has not fully met the nine conditions of the European Commission;

Calls on the Georgian Government to return to the European path, to abide by its commitment to respect, strengthen, and promote democracy, the rule of law, human rights and fundamental rights, and to genuinely engage in the implementation of the measures necessary to fulfil the nine conditions set by the European Commission for the granting of candidate status and for EU membership, by involving and cooperating with Georgian civil society and political opposition;

Urges the Georgian Government and Parliament to respect the wish of the absolute majority of the Georgian people to continue the country's path towards integration into the EU and to respect the country's commitment, enshrined in the Constitution of Georgia, to take the necessary measures to ensure Georgia's full integration into the EU and NATO.