

13th BATUMI INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

“Georgia’s European Way”

STABILITY, DEVELOPMENT, DIVERSITY

14-15 JULY 2016
BATUMI, GEORGIA

DAY 1

14 JULY	VENUE: Hotel Hilton Batumi, Rustaveli Ballroom, 1 st floor
09:00 - 09:30	REGISTRATION
OPENING OF THE CONFERENCE	
09:30 - 10:00	OFFICIAL WELCOME
	H. E. David Bakradze - State Minister of Georgia on European and Euro-Atlantic Integration Amb. Rastislav Káčer - Chairman of GLOBSEC, Slovak Republic
10:00 - 10:20	KEYNOTE SPEAKERS
	H. E. Giorgi Kvirikashvili - Prime Minister of Georgia H. E. Johannes Hahn - Commissioner for European Neighbourhood Policy & Enlargement Negotiations
10:30 - 12:00	SESSION I
EU APPROACH TO THE EUROPEAN NEIGHBOURHOOD AND CHALLENGES FOR THE SLOVAK PRESIDENCY (<i>in partnership with GLOBSEC</i>)	
In July 2016 Slovakia took over the Presidency of the Council of the European Union. In the same period Poland is taking over the Presidency of the Visegrad Group (V4). The Visegrad regional cooperation is also marking 25 years since its founding this year. The goal of this panel will be to present the Slovak EU Presidency’s priorities in such areas as enlargement agenda, partnerships, EU neighbourhood and EaP on one hand, and on the other hand exploring possibilities of enhancing cooperation between V4 and the EaP countries in the context of current geopolitical challenges in the region.	
MODERATOR:	Mr. Henry Foy - Central Europe Correspondent, Financial Times
SPEAKERS:	1. Hon. David Usupashvili - Chairman of the Parliament of Georgia 2. H.E. Rudolf Michalka - Ambassador of the Slovak Republic to Georgia 3. Hon. Jarosław Obremski - Deputy Chairman, Foreign and EU Affairs Committee, Senate of the Republic of Poland 4. Dr. István Mikola - State Secretary for Security Policy and

	International Co-operation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary 5. Mr. Jaroslav Ludva - Junior Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic
12:00 -12:30	Coffee Break
12:30 - 14:00	SESSION II
EUROPEAN NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICY REVIEW AND ITS PRIORITIES FOR THE ASSOCIATED COUNTRIES	
<p>Since the Eastern Partnership (EaP) initiative was launched in 2009, it has gone a long way in shaping the agendas of bilateral and multilateral cooperation between the EU and its partner countries. In 2014, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine reaffirmed their European choice, signed the Association Agreements with the EU and recognized their aspiration for the EU membership. The Agreements brought bilateral cooperation between the parties to a new level. To the different extent, the associated partners have made significant progress in implementation of political and economic part of the Association Agreements, including Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Areas and Visa Liberalisation Action Plans. Differentiation in ambitions and interests of the EaP countries toward partnership with the EU was one of the reasons for the European Neighborhood Policy review. Keeping integrity of the EaP initiative, especially on multilateral level remains one of the priorities for the EU and its partner countries.</p>	
MODERATOR:	Mr. Michael Spindelegger - Director General, International Centre for Migration Policy Development, former Vice-Chancellor of the Republic of Austria
SPEAKERS:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. H. E. Mikheil Janelidze - Minister of Foreign Affairs of Georgia 2. Hon. Karlheinz Kopf - Second President of the National Council of the Parliament of the Republic of Austria 3. Mr. Luc Pierre Devigne - Director for Russia, Eastern partnership, Central Asia and OSCE, Deputy Managing Director for Europe and Central Asia, European External Action Service 4. Hon. Günther Verheugen - former EU Commissioner for European Neighbourhood Policy & Enlargement 5. Hon. Viktor Dolidze - Member of the Committee on European Integration and Foreign Relations Committee of the Parliament of Georgia, Co-President of the EuroNest PA
Presentation (7 min) - Anaklia, Gateway between Europe and Asia	
Delivered by: Mr. Kevin Cullen - Director of Strategic and Business Development, the Conti Group	
14:00 -15:00	Lunch Hotel Hilton Batumi, Restaurant Pelion, ground floor

15:00 -16:30	SESSION III
THE MODERN SECURITY ARCHITECTURE: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES <i>(Chatham House Rules)</i>	
<i>Introductory video: "Life with Barbed Wires"</i>	
<p>The speed of the disintegration of the post-cold war European security architecture is truly alarming. Russian military interventions - Georgia in 2008 and Ukraine in 2014, occupation of Georgian regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia and of Crimea in Ukraine, the on-going war in the Eastern Ukraine are indicators leaving no room for uncertainty that a new security structure is being forced upon the European Continent. Russia is skilfully using all the means of hybrid warfare including information war, energy dependency leverage and political lobbying in order to question the concept of the European cooperative security. With the view of resolving the current crisis and increasing cooperation and stability in the region the European security strategy needs to incorporate more coherent policies and new forms of addressing existing challenges.</p>	
MODERATOR:	Ms. Ketevan Tsikhelashvili - First Deputy State Minister of Georgia for Reconciliation and Civic Equality
SPEAKERS:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. H. E. Tinatin Khidasheli - Minister of Defence of Georgia 2. Amb. Herbert Salber - EU Special Representative for the South Caucasus and crisis in Georgia 3. Hon. Bogdan Klich - Minority Leader of Polish Senate, Former Minister of Defence of the Republic of Poland 4. Hon. Yaşar Yağış - former Foreign Minister of the Republic of Turkey 5. Prof. István Gyarmati - Ambassador, President of Centre for Democracy Public Foundation
18:00-18:30	Open-Air Performance of Georgian National Ballet "Sukhishvilebi" <i>(In the frame of the project "Check In Georgia")</i>
19:00	Cocktail Reception Hotel Hilton Batumi, Sky-bar Nephele, 20 th floor
21:00-22:30	NIGHT OWL SESSION
"BREXIT" AND THE FUTURE OF EUROPE <i>(Chatham House Rules)</i>	
<p>The British people voted to leave the European Union by margin of 52% to 48%. As a next step, according to the Article 50 of the Treaty of European Union, in the coming months and years, British and European leaders will have to negotiate the terms of UK`s exit. Despite the fact that it might take years for the full consequences to be clear, some of the challenges became evident immediately including the British pound plunging 10 percent and Leaders from Scotland and Northern Ireland calling for referendums of their own to leave the UK. Furthermore, BREXIT had spill over effect across Europe as Eurosceptic politicians in Italy, France, The Netherlands and Denmark all called for similar referendum.</p>	

MODERATOR:	Mr. Fraser Cameron - Director, EU-Asia Centre, Brussels
SPEAKERS:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. H. E. Alexandra Mary Hall Hall - Ambassador of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to Georgia 2. Hon. Günther Verheugen - former Commissioner for European Neighbourhood Policy & Enlargement 3. H. E. Natalie Sabanadze - Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the Kingdom of Belgium and Representative of Georgia to the European Union 4. H. E. János Herman - Ambassador, Head of Delegation of the European Union to Georgia 5. Mr. Maurizio Greganti - Head of Unit for the Russian Federation, the Countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Italian Republic

DAY 2

15 JULY	VENUE: Hotel Hilton Batumi, Rustaveli Ballroom, 1 st floor
10:00-10:45	DIALOGUE WITH THE PRESIDENT
MODERATOR:	Amb. Rastislav Káčer - Chairman of GLOBSEC, Slovak Republic
SPEAKER:	H. E. Giorgi Margvelashvili - President of Georgia
10:50 -12:20	SESSION I
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND COUNTERING ANTI-WESTERN PROPAGANDA	
<p>In light of the recent, full-scale Russian information war offensive, a concept of strategic communication gained completely new dimension. It is not a mere tool for long term policy planning, rather, modern strategic communication became the only effective mechanism of countering deceptive messages, falsified facts and distorted realities. In order to effectively address contemporary challenges affecting European peace and stability it is necessary to improve strategic communications at the European level, enhance information and experience sharing mechanisms, develop common positions, create a network of public diplomacy experts and engage in more robust communication strategies to fight growing anti-western propaganda.</p>	
MODERATOR:	Mr. Tom Nuttall - Charlemagne Columnist, The Economist, Brussels
SPEAKERS:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. H. E. David Bakradze - State Minister of Georgia on European and Euro-Atlantic Integration 2. Mr. Giles Portman - Head of East Stratcom Task Force, European External Action Service 3. Hon. Kalle Palling - Chairman, European Union Affairs Committee, Parliament of the Republic of Estonia 4. Dr. Lincoln Mitchell - Expert, Political Development, Strategic

	<p>Communication and Research</p> <p>5. Mr. Ruslan Deynychenko - Executive Director, StopFake.org, Ukraine</p>
12:20 -13:15	<p>Lunch</p> <p>Hotel Hilton Batumi, Restaurant Pelion, Ground Floor</p>
<p>Presentation (5 min) – Medtronic</p> <p>Delivered by: Mr. Stefan Linder - Country Manager of the Region Emerging East</p>	
13:20 -14:50	<p>SESSION II</p>
<p>DEEP AND COMPREHENSIVE FREE TRADE AREA: LEGISLATIVE REFORMS AND ECONOMIC IMPACT</p>	
<p>One of the important components of the EU-Georgia Association Agreement is the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area. DCFTA aims at integrating Georgia’s economy into the EU economy through the legal approximation in the field of trade and trade related area. For the gradual and effective realization of the DCFTA, the Government of Georgia approved 2014-2017 Action Plan for implementation of the DCFTA. Since 2015, issues related to the DCFTA are also considered in the National Annual Action Plan for implementation of the Association Agreement. Implementation of the DCFTA will support and promote development of an investment climate and business environment in Georgia. At the same time, implementation of the DCFTA provides Georgia with possibilities to become an export platform to the EU for the countries which do not have free access to the European market.</p>	
MODERATOR:	<p>Ms. Daniela Morari - Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration of the Republic of Moldova</p>
SPEAKERS:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> H. E. Dimitri Kumsishvili - First Vice Prime Minister, Minister of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia Ms. Katarina Mathernova - Deputy Director General of the European Commission Directorate General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations Ms. Maria Åsenius - Head of Cabinet of the Commissioner for Trade, European Commission Hon. Ana Birchall - Chairperson, European Affairs Committee, Chamber of Deputies of the Republic of Romania Mr. Michael Emerson - Associate Senior Research Fellow, Centre for European Policy Studies
14:50-15:20	<p>Coffee Break</p>
15:20 -17:05	<p>SESSION III</p>
<p>THE ROLE OF THE DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION IN THE PROCESS OF GEORGIA’S EU-DRIVEN REFORMS - CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES</p>	
<p><i>The Documentary Film screening: “Europe in Georgia”, directed by: Mr. Toma Chagelishvili</i></p>	

The EU was one of the first to assist Georgia in the difficult early years of transition and since then it annually provides substantial financial assistance supporting Georgia's process of democratization and development. By signing the Association Agreement in 2014, Georgia's relations with the EU reached qualitatively new and higher level. European integration became an integral part of the country's domestic policy creating a solid basis for the Georgia's "European Way". In this context, EU assistance has a special role in the process of implementation of the Association Agreement and particularly in the process of reforms in the Rule of Law and Judiciary sectors. In the light of successful implementation of the reforms, the amount of the EU financial assistance and the support delivered by the EU Member States and other donor organizations has significantly increased, as well as new and more comprehensive EU assistance instruments has become available for Georgia.

MODERATOR:	Mr. Lasha Dolidze - National Project Manager/Team Leader Technical Capacity Development to the Ministry of Agriculture Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Representation in Georgia
SPEAKERS:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. H. E. Thea Tsulukiani - Minister of Justice of Georgia 2. Mr. Vincent Rey - Acting Head of Cooperation, EU Delegation to Georgia 3. Mr. Väino Reinart - Undersecretary for Economic and Development Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Estonia 4. Mr. François Lafond - Associate Professor, Sciences Po Paris 5. Mr. Kakhaber Gogolashvili - Chairman, EaP CSF Georgian National Platform, Senior Fellow, Director of EU Studies, Georgian Foundation for Strategic and International Studies
19:00	Gala Dinner (by invitations)

DAY 3

16 JULY	WINE TASTING - ADJARIAN WINE HOUSE - www.awh.ge
10:30	Bus departure from the Hotel Hilton Batumi