



Office of the State Minister of Georgia on European and Euro-Atlantic Integration

Report on the Implementation of the EU-Georgia
Association Agreement 2015 National Action Plan

March 2016

EU-Georgia Association Agreement

JUNE 2014:

Georgia signed the Association Agreement (AA/DCFTA) with the EU

JUNE 2014:

The EU-Georgia Association Agenda was adopted

JULY 2014:

The Parliament of Georgia ratified the Association Agreement

SEPTEMBER 2014:

The Association Agreement provisionally entered into force

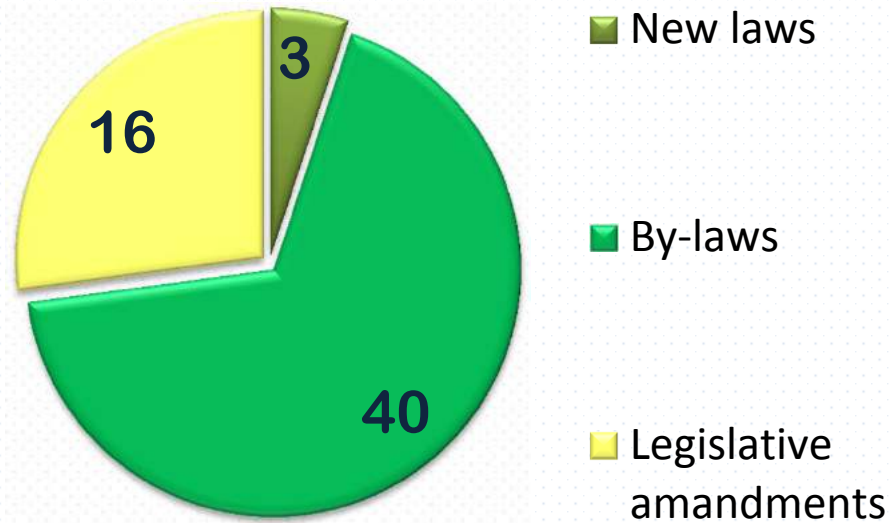
TO DATE:

The European Parliament and all the EU member states have ratified the Association Agreement

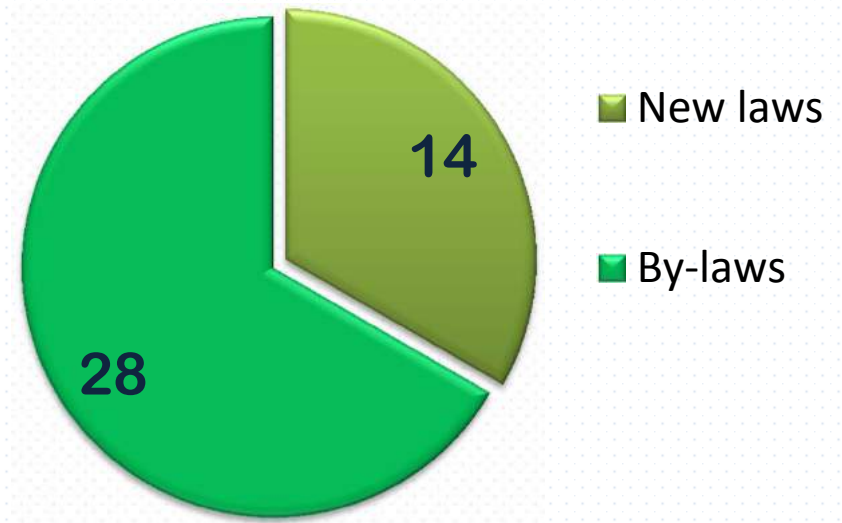


Legislative Approximation in 2015

Adopted

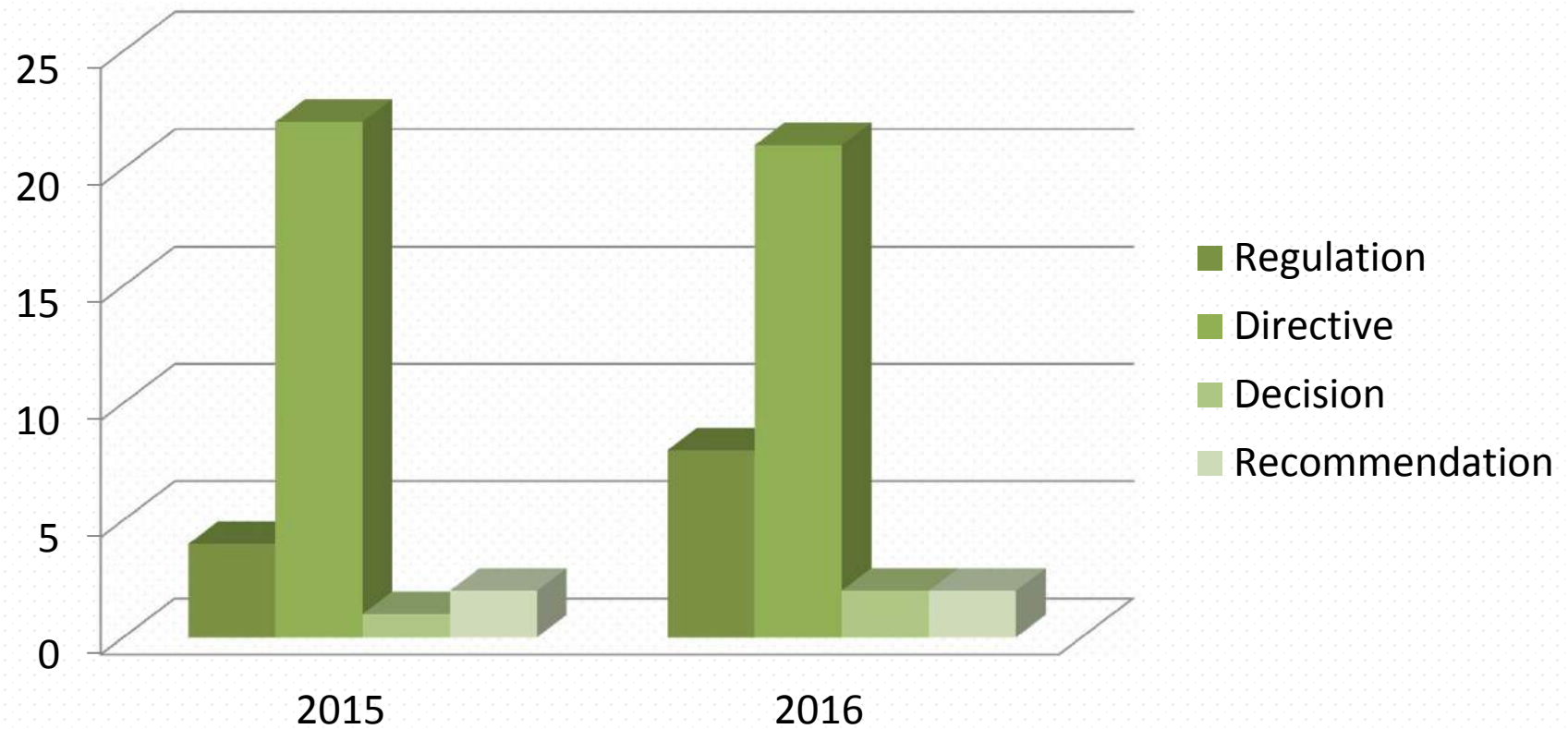


Elaborated/Under discussion



Legislative Approximation

Transposed/ Transposition Planned in 2016

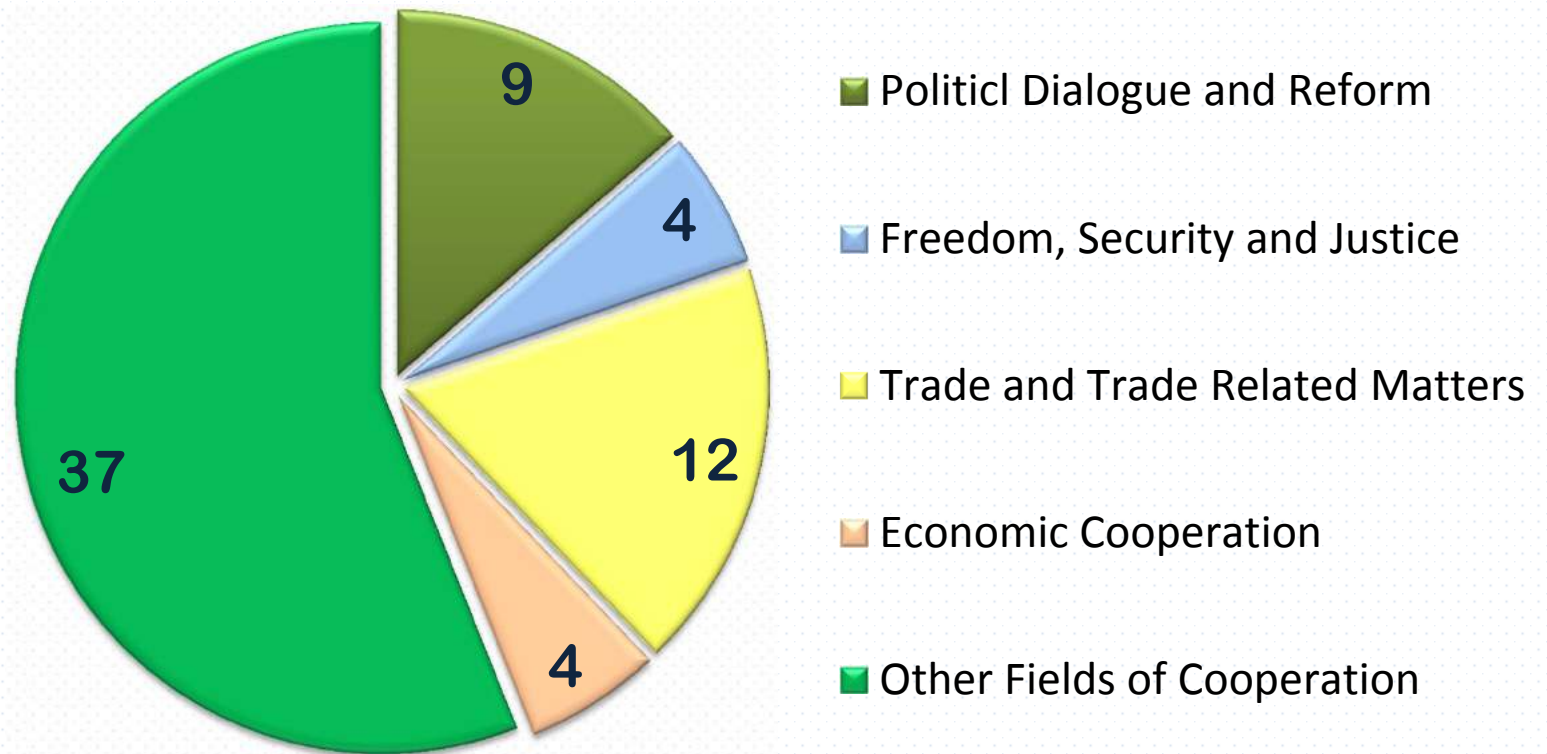


Transposed/partially transposed: 29

Transposition/partial transposition in progress: 33

Planned Legislative Approximation in 2016

Field specific laws and amendments to be elaborated/approved under the 2016 National Action Plan





Practical Results of the AA Implementation

- ☑ In the **Global Competitiveness Index**, Georgia has improved its position and moved to **66th position among 140 countries**
- ☑ For 2015, Georgia's overall **Ease of Doing Business** ranking was **24th among 189 countries**
- ☑ Fitch has changed the outlook on Georgia's long-term **Foreign and Local Issuer Default Ratings (IDR) from stable to positive** and affirmed the IDRs at BB
- ☑ Georgia had the **highest degree of media freedom among the Eastern Partnership countries** in 2014, according to the Media Freedom Index survey
- ☑ According to the **Corruption Perceptions Index 2015** of Transparency International, Georgia is ranked **48th among 168 states** (moved up from 50th in 2014 and 55th in 2013), and **1st in the Region**

Important Reforms within the 2015 AA Action Plan

Reform of
the Judiciary



Public
Administration



Human
Rights



Economic
Cooperation



Environmental
Protection



Culture and
Education





Reform of the Judiciary & Security Sector Reform

- ☑ Legislative **amendments to the “Law on Prosecutor’s Office”** have been approved, which significantly increased independence and transparency of the Prosecutor’s Office
- ☑ More **transparent and objective judicial selection process** has been introduced
- ☑ **Disciplinary prosecution of judges** has been delegated to the High Council of Justice
- ☑ Amendments to the “Criminal Procedure Code” have introduced the **new rule of witness interrogation**
- ☑ The **reform of the penitentiary system** is continuing successfully
- ☑ The **“State Security Service” law** has been adopted that established a separate **State Security Service** and draw fine line between the Police functions and those of the State Security Service to **increase accountability and transparency**



Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms

- ☑ The **“Law of Georgia on Elimination of all forms of Discrimination”** has been adopted
- ☑ **The Action Plan on Fight Against Torture, Inhuman, Cruel and Humiliating Treatment or Punishment** has been approved by the Government
- ☑ **Protocols №15 and №16 of the European Convention on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms** have been ratified
- ☑ **The Juvenile Justice Code** has been adopted
- ☑ Package of legislative amendments aiming at **protecting children residing and working in the street** has been approved by the Government, introducing **legal definition of the word “homeless child”**
- ☑ The Council of Europe **Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence** has been signed



Public Administration Reform and Fight against Corruption

- ☑ New **Law on “Civil Service”** has been adopted to modernise public sector and establish effective public administration
- ☑ The **Anti-Corruption Strategy and the new Anti-Corruption Action Plan for 2015-2016** have been approved
- ☑ **The Action Plan of Georgia on Open Government Partnership (OGP)** has been approved



Foreign and Security Policy cooperation

- ☑ Georgia has **joined 221 statements released by the EU** in different international organizations
- ☑ **Georgia is participating** in the EU-led Advisory Mission in Ukraine - **EUAM Ukraine**
- ☑ **Georgia is participating** in the EU Training Mission in Mali - **EUTM Mali**
- ☑ **Georgia has participated** in the EU-led Mission in the **Central African Republic - EUFOR RCA** (in total 241 military personnel have participated)
- ☑ Tbilisi hosted the **1st CSDP High-Level Alumni Conference** for alumni of the CSDP training programmes in December 2015

Visa Liberalisation Action Plan

May, 2015

The European Commission published its third report on Georgia's implementation of the VLAP



September, 2015

EU Expert Assessment Missions visited Georgia in order to assess the implementation of the VLAP



December, 2015

The European Commission published its fourth and final progress report on Georgia's implementation of the VLAP



March, 2016

The European Commission presented a legislative proposal to the European Parliament and the EU Council to lift visa requirements for the citizens of Georgia





Cooperation on migration, asylum and border management

- ☑ The **Electronic Database of Asylum-seekers, Refugees and Persons with Humanitarian Status** has been developed
- ☑ The **2016-2020 Migration Strategy** has been approved by the Government
- ☑ The Agreements between the EU and Georgia on “**the Readmission of Persons Residing without Authorisation**” and “**Visa Facilitation**” are being implemented successfully
- ☑ Georgia has been officially included in **the priority country list of the EU’s Judicial Cooperation Unit (EUROJUST)**
- ☑ Amendments to the “**Law of Georgia on Prevention of the Money Laundering**” have been adopted
- ☑ The Government of Georgia has signed **Agreements on “Cooperation in the Fight against Crime”** with the Kingdom of Spain, the Republic of Belarus, the Slovak Republic and the Republic of Lithuania



Economic Cooperation

- ☑ Amendments to the “**Law on Competition and Free Trade**” have been adopted and the **Competition Agency** has been created
- ☑ In the framework of regional development and rural support programs, **more than thousand of infrastructural projects** have been carried out throughout the country
- ☑ **The Enterprise Development Agency and the Innovation and Technology Agency** have been established to help the development of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises as well as IT and innovations
- ☑ Georgia is **investing in its railway infrastructure** in order to facilitate **trade between Asia and Europe**
- ☑ The “**Tax Code**” has been amended to harmonise with the Directive 2006/112/EC of 28 November 2006 concerning **interdependent persons, reverse charges and the use of the principle of market prices**
- ☑ The Decree of the Minister of Finance of Georgia №996 has been amended to include the provisions for **tax administration of ad valorem excise** of the Directive 2011/64/EU of 21 June 2011



Statistics

- ☑ Since January 2015, a **new statistics dissemination system** has been launched
- ☑ The **quality control and processing of special customs declarations data have been completed** and information has been reflected in external merchandise trade statistics database
- ☑ The National Statistics Office has published the preliminary results of **2014 General Population Census of Georgia** including the agricultural component. The final results will be available in April 2016
- ☑ The amendments to the **Law of Georgia on “the Official Statistics”** have entered into force



Transport & Energy

- ☑ **Amendments to the “Air Code of Georgia”** have entered into force, approximating Georgia’s legislation with the following regulations: Regulation (EC) №785/2004 on Insurance Requirements for air carriers and aircraft operators; Regulation (EC) №1008/2008 on common rules for the operation of air services in the community; Regulation (EC) №2027/97 on air carrier liability in respect of the carriage of passengers and their baggage by air
- ☑ Amendments to the **“Law of Georgia on Motor Transport”** have been elaborated
- ☑ Amendments to the **“Law of Georgia on Licenses and Permits”** have been elaborated
- ☑ Amendments to the **“Law of Georgia on Oil and Gas”** have entered into force
- ☑ Under the **Regional Electricity Transmission Development Project**, important part of the construction/rehabilitation works have been completed
- ☑ The foundation for the **Trans-Anatolian Natural Gas Pipeline (TANAP)** has been laid
- ☑ Joint declaration has been signed among the stakeholders to support implementation of the **Interconnector Project Azerbaijan – Georgia – Romania (AGRI)**, which is to deliver liquefied natural gas to the EU countries



Environmental Protection

- ☑ The **“Waste Management Code of Georgia”** has been adopted
- ☑ The **“Environmental Assessment Code”** of Georgia has been elaborated
- ☑ The **draft “Law on Radioactive Waste”** and amendments to the **“Law of Georgia on Nuclear and Radiation Safety”** have been elaborated
- ☑ The **draft “Law on Water Resources Management”** has been elaborated
- ☑ The **draft “Law on Biodiversity Protection”** and amendments to the **“Law on Environmental Protection”** have been elaborated
- ☑ Legislative amendments have been adopted establishing **mandatory certification system for refrigeration and air conditioning technicians**



Agriculture

- ☑ To support the farmers the Government of Georgia has launched the **Preferential Agro Credit Project** and the **Small Farmers Assistance Project**
- ☑ The **Strategy for Agricultural Development in Georgia for 2015-2020** has been elaborated
- ☑ The **Legislative Approximation Program on food safety, veterinary and phytosanitary spheres** has been elaborated, which envisages the harmonization of the food safety, veterinary and plant protection legislation of Georgia with the EU aquis



Research, Technological Development and Innovation

- ☑ The **Digital Terrestrial TV Broadcasting Switchover Action Plan and Recommendations** have been adopted and are being implemented successfully
- ☑ The first **Technology Park** has been built in Georgia aiming to promote scientific research and innovative ideas

For the development of the Georgia's innovation infrastructure:

- ☑ **4 industrial laboratories** have been opened
- ☑ The first **Public Innovation Centre** has been founded in Georgia



Employment, Social Policy and Equal Opportunities

- ☑ **The Labor Code** of Georgia was amended in line with the International Labor standards, including establishment of mediation mechanism
- ☑ The “**Law of Georgia on Labour Migration**” has been adopted
- ☑ The “**State Program for the development of Labour Market Analysis and Information System**” has been developed
- ☑ The draft “**Law of Georgia on Social Security and Healthcare**” has been elaborated
- ☑ The **Labour Inspection Department** has been established at the Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia



Healthcare

- ☑ The Government of Georgia has launched its **State Universal Health Care program** that has ensured **every citizen of the country** with a basic package of in- and out-patient services
- ☑ Unprecedented program for **elimination of Hepatitis C** has been launched
- ☑ The **National Strategic Plan on HIV/AIDS and on Tuberculosis for 2016-2018** has been developed



Culture & Education

- ☑ Georgia has become the member of the **Creative Europe Programme** (first country among the EaP which joined the programme)
- ☑ The draft of the **Georgian Cultural Strategy - Culture 2025** has been elaborated and presented to the public
- ☑ Georgia has **been actively involved in the Erasmus+ Programme**
- ☑ Technical procedures for the **signature of the EU-Georgia Agreement on Georgia's participation in the Horizon 2020** programme as an associated member have been completed
- ☑ With a view to implement the concept of **education continuity and lifelong learning**, the law aiming at introducing a secondary component into vocational education has been elaborated

Sport & Youth

- ☑ The **National Youth Policy Document and the Action Plan (2014-2020)** have been adopted and the draft Monitoring Framework Document for the implementation of the Action Plan has been elaborated
- ☑ The **National Sport Policy document and Action Plan** have been adopted and are being implemented successfully
- ☑ The draft **Anti-doping Policy Development Strategy 2016-2020** has been elaborated



- ☑ 13th **European Youth Olympic Festival** has been held in Tbilisi, in July 2015
- ☑ Tbilisi has hosted **UEFA Super Cup Final** in August 2015



Cooperation in the framework of “Eastern Partnership”

- ☑ The **6th informal dialogue meeting of the “Eastern Partnership”** has been held in Tbilisi with the participation of the **Ministers of Foreign Affairs and the Ministers for Healthcare and Social Protection** from the EaP countries
- ☑ The officials from Georgia have taken part in 2 high level meetings, 8 thematic platforms, 16 panel meetings and 2 seminars/trainings of the “Eastern Partnership” multilateral framework



Civil Society Cooperation

- ☑ In November 2015, a **Memorandum of Cooperation** has been signed between the Government of Georgia and the National Platform of Georgia of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum
- ☑ Georgia was the **first country in the Eastern Partnership that engaged civil society in the process of elaboration of National Action Plans** for the implementation of the Association Agreement

For more information please visit:

www.eu-nato.gov.ge