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# NEWSLETTER

## Democracy Research Institute (DRI)

Democracy Research Institute is a public policy think tank that aims at promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms; establishment of the transparent and accountable governance system based on the rule of law and human rights; support to the establishment of free and fair society; support to the protection of human rights in conflict-affected regions; restoration of trust among parties and promotion of integration policy and support to the European integration.

### DRI activities in October

In October, the Democracy Research Institute launched the project "Road to Europe - an opportunity for Georgia", within the framework of which DRI plans to promote and evaluate the implementation of the 12-point plan of the European Commission through advocacy and monitoring.

Within the framework of the project, the Democracy Research Institute:

- Will prepare and share with parliamentarians the recommendations for the implementation of the 12-point plan of the European Commission
- Will oversee the implementation of the 12-point plan
- Will prepare a monitoring report
- We will inform about current processes to international partners and the public.

The project is implemented by the Consortium led by the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS) and composed of the following CSOs: Center for Strategic Research and Development of Georgia (CSR DG), Civil Society Institute (CSI), Center for Training and Consultancy (CTC), Education Development and Employment Center (EDEC), and Institute for European Politics (IEP).

The Civil Society Initiative builds on the knowledge and experience gained during the implementation of the EU-supported Civil Society Development Initiative (CSSIGE 2017-2020).

### DRI in Coalition activities

- The Coalition Responds to the XXXI Conference of Judges

### DRI RECOMMENDATIONS RELATING TO THE STRENGTHENING OF PARLIAMENTARY OVERSIGHT OF THE SECURITY SECTOR

The Democracy Research Institute addressed the Chairman of the Defense and Security Committee of the Parliament of Georgia with recommendations to strengthen the parliamentary supervision over the security sector.

DRI recommends that the Trust Group be abolished and its powers be transferred to the Defense and Security Committee of the Parliament of Georgia.

Prior to the abolition of the Trust Group, the Democracy Research Institute recommends the following:

- In order to ensure the accountability of the Trust Group and transparency of its activities, the Rules and Procedures of the Parliament of Georgia should reflect the obligation of the Trust Group to submit an activity report to the Parliament of Georgia every year or twice a year.
- The part of the Rules and Procedures, which determines the composition of the Trust Group, should be edited so that to allow the nomination of a member of the Trust Group not only by one opposition faction, but by political groups/faction/factions of the parliamentary opposition.
- Meetings of the Trust Group should be held at least once a month. Any member of the Trust Group should have the right to call a meeting, which will give the parliamentary opposition the opportunity to exercise parliamentary supervision over the security sector independently of the ruling party.
- The current edition of the Rules and Procedures does not allow the members of the Trust Group to visit the accountable institutions without informing the head of the institution. The above gives the agency the opportunity to "properly prepare" for the visit. The visits of the Trust Group to the relevant agencies should be carried out without informing the agencies in advance.
- The agencies should only be able to refuse to provide information about the hidden forms and methods of their activities to the Trust Group.