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# NEWSLETTER

Democracy Research Institute (DRI)

## DRI activities in November

### DRI proposals for the implementation of EU recommendations relating to judicial reform

The Democracy Research Institute addressed the parliamentary with recommendations relating to the judicial reform.

1. In order to improve the procedure for electing non-judge members of the Council of Justice, the Parliament should ensure a public hearing of the candidates, including the presentation of their vision and four-year action plan, question-and-answer sessions for the MPs and attendees; The non-judge member shall be elected by open vote, after consideration of the matter at the plenary session.
2. 2/3 of the judge and non-judge members shall be defined as the minimum quorum necessary for making substantive decisions in the Council of Justice (the so-called double 2/3).
3. There should be no judges in the Council of Justice who hold the office of the chairperson of the court (deputy chairperson, or chairperson of the collegium or chamber)
4. Re-election of members of the Council of Justice should be limited.
5. Specific grounds for transferring judges to other courts shall be determined by law. The rules for transferring judges to other courts, which had been applied before the December 2021 changes, should be restored.
6. The implementation of the four waves of the judicial reform should be evaluated within the framework of the parliamentary format - the benefits of the reform in practice and the challenges. The assessment should be based on the documents and opinions developed not only by the ruling party, but also by other political groups, professional circles and civil organizations.
7. The justice strategy and action plan should be developed on the basis of the evaluation of the results of the four waves of reform.

### Amendments to be made to the Law of Georgia on Corruption do not meet the requirements of the 12-point plan of the European Union

The Democracy Research Institute submitted opinions to the Legal Issues Committee of the Parliament of Georgia, parliamentary factions and political groups relating to the legislative amendments drafted by the ruling party in relation to the anti-corruption agency.

the package of legislative proposals initiated in the Parliament of Georgia should address the problems for which the mentioned recommendation was issued.

Unfortunately, the legislative initiative does not even formally address the issue of assets declarations of officials, protection of whistleblowers, strengthening of administrative capacity to monitor party financing and election campaign finances, creation of a specialized investigative, criminal or judicial body responsible for combating corruption or taking effective steps to fight against high-level corruption.

Instead of the creation of an independent anti-corruption agency that would have covered all key anti-corruption functions and/or would have been a specialized investigative institution responsible for combating corruption, the draft law, which has been adopted in two readings, proposes the creation of a completely non-functional new body - the Anti-Corruption Bureau, which duplicates the functions of the already existing Interagency Anti-Corruption Council and is limited to the determination of general anti-corruption policy.

According to the assessment of the Democracy Research Institute, the creation of a new body equipped with functions similar to the already existing Anti-Corruption Council will lead to the irrational spending of the state budget.

### DRI in Coalition activities

- Statement regarding Mikheil Saakashvili's further treatment

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 HAS PREPARED INFORMATION MATERIAL WITHIN THE PROJECT "ANTI-GENDER RHETORIC OF FAR-RIGHT GROUPS"



### The Civil Code of Georgia: Spouses Enjoy Equal Rights in the Family

What do far-rights think on the equality of man and woman in the family?

Guram Palavandishvili



Man is the Head of the family!

### Family = Equality of Spouses

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