

**EU interim assessment on implementation  
of 12 priorities by Georgia – 22.06.2023**

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**Geo CSOs assessment update since 15.06.2023**

1. **Address the issue of political polarization, through ensuring cooperation across political parties in the spirit of the April 19 agreement**

**EU verdict – some progress**

**EU expectations as stated on 22.06.2023:**

- Ensure efficient oversight of the Parliament
- End the use of harsh rhetoric
- Constructive cross-party arrangements
- Honour past political agreements, notably the EU-mediated 19<sup>th</sup> April Agreement

**Update:** One of the expectations of de-polarization – release of Nika Gvaramia – has been fulfilled by the President pardoning him, however the ruling party has not welcomed President's decision

2. **Guarantee the full functioning of all state institutions, strengthening their independent and effective accountability as well as their democratic oversight functions; further improve the electoral framework, addressing all shortcomings identified by OSCE/ODIHR and the Council of Europe/Venice Commission in these processes.**

**EU verdict – some progress**

**EU expectations as stated on 22.06.2023:**

- Improve Parliamentary oversight
- Adequately investigate allegations of electoral mal-practices according to the ODIHR reports
- Reverse the electoral amendments changing the appointment procedure of the CEC chairman

3. **Adopt and implement a transparent and effective judicial reform strategy and action plan post-2021 based on a broad, inclusive and cross-party consultation process; ensure a judiciary that is fully and truly independent, accountable and impartial along the entire judicial institutional chain, also to safeguard the separation of powers; notably ensure the proper functioning and integrity of all judicial and prosecutorial institutions, in particular the Supreme Court and address any shortcomings identified including the nomination of judges at all levels and of the Prosecutor-General; undertake a thorough reform of the High Council of Justice and appoint the High Council's remaining members. All these measures need to be fully in line with European standards and the recommendations of the Venice Commission.**

### **EU verdict – some progress**

**EU expectations as stated on 22.06.2023:**

- Submit amendments on judicial reform to the Venice Commission for a second opinion
  - Adopt a broader reform of the judiciary, especially of the High Council of Justice
  - Appoint the remaining non-judge members of the High Council of Justice
4. **Strengthen the independence of its Anti- Corruption Agency bringing together all key anti-corruption functions, in particular to rigorously address high-level corruption cases; equip the new Special Investigative Service and Personal Data Protection Service with resources commensurate to their mandates and ensure their institutional independence**

### **EU verdict – some progress**

**EU expectations as stated on 22.06.2023:**

- Ensure independence of anti-corruption bureau
  - Consult the Venice Commission on the draft legislation
  - Reconsider decision to withdraw from the OECD anti-corruption network
5. **Implement the commitment to deoligarchisation by eliminating the excessive influence of vested interests in economic, political and public life.**

### **EU verdict – limited progress**

**EU expectations as stated on 22.06.2023:**

- Welcomes the announcement by the ruling party not to pass the deoligarchisation law (in its current form)
- Focus on systemic approach, in line with the Venice Commission recommendations, including by reinforcing rules on competition policy and political party financing

**Update:** Speaker of Georgia's Parliament has stated that they will look into what can be improved in the legislation, namely in the fields of competition law and political party financing, in the context of systemic approach to address deoligarchization

- 6. Strengthen the fight against organized crime based on detailed threat assessments, notably by ensuring rigorous investigations, prosecutions and a credible track record of prosecutions and convictions; guarantee accountability and oversight of law enforcement agencies.**

### **EU verdict – some progress**

**EU expectations as stated on 22.06.2023:**

- Need to address all the outstanding recommendations of the Council of Europe MONEYVAL
- 7. Undertake stronger efforts to guarantee a free, professional, pluralistic and independent media environment, notably by ensuring that criminal procedures brought against media owners fulfill the highest legal standards, and by launching impartial, effective and timely investigations in cases of threats against safety of journalists and other media professionals.**

### **EU verdict – no progress**

**EU expectations as stated on 22.06.2023:**

- Amend the law on Broadcasting in line with the legal opinion of the Council of Europe
- Ensure safety of journalists
- Raise the level of protection of freedom of journalists and media owners

**Update:** One of the expectations of media freedom - Nika Gvaramia's release from custody has been fulfilled - the President of Georgia pardoned Nika Gvaramia in custody on June 23, 2023

- 8. Move swiftly to strengthen the protection of human rights of vulnerable groups, including by bringing perpetrators and instigators of violence to justice more effectively**

### **EU verdict – some progress**

**EU expectations as stated on 22.06.2023:**

- Prepare an Action Plan for Human Rights Strategy in an inclusive manner
- Ensure the freedom of assembly and protection for members of the LGBTQI community

- 9. Consolidate efforts to enhance gender equality and fight violence against women**

## EU verdict – Completed

### 10. Ensure the involvement of civil society in decision-making processes at all levels

#### EU verdict – some progress

EU expectations as stated on 22.06.2023:

- Resume constructive dialogue with the civil society
- Implement regular and transparent consultations

### 11. Adopt legislation so that Georgian courts proactively take into account European Court of Human Rights judgments in their deliberations

#### EU verdict – Completed

### 12. Ensure that an independent person is given preference in the process of nominating a new Public Defender (Ombudsperson) and that this process is conducted in a transparent manner; ensure the Office's effective institutional independence

#### EU verdict – Completed

#### EU interim assessment – 22.06.2023

Priority	Completed	Good progress	Some progress	Limited progress	No progress
Addressing political polarization					
Functioning and accountability of state institutions and the electoral framework					
Inclusive and effective judiciary reform					
Anti-corruption					
Deoligarchisation					
Organized crime					
Media pluralism					
Human rights					
Gender equality					
Involvement of CSOs in decision making					

Taking into account ECHR judgements					
Independent Public Defender					