



## European Parliamentarians' Address to Bidzina Ivanishvili

6 March 2013

Mr. Prime Minister,

your open letter to President M. Saakashvili shows the situation in Georgia in an utmost worrying terms. If your efforts will result in deepening of the apparent democratic backsliding, Georgia would be compromised as democracy and seized from its European perspective. Then you become a person who closes European doors for Georgia.

If Georgia is to be a partner for the European Union we shall share and fulfill the same basic principles. Failure of the Georgian democracy will only be welcomed by those who oppose the spread of freedom and the rule of law onto the whole of Europe. Clearly, ongoing public pressure on MPs and local legislators, consistent and declared pressure on the judiciary, the Georgian Public Broadcaster, inflammatory rhetoric and use of mobs to quell political opponents as well as frequent use of hate speech towards minorities only makes Georgia drift away not towards its European dream. Thus your ultimatum is to be read clearly.

What awaits those who opt for Europe? – That is also your rhetorical question and response: relevant public appraisal by mob.

It is unacceptable for officials to use hate speeches and calls for violence. The aggressive campaign to force opposition MPs to switch side by blackmailing or threatening them or their families simply stands in stark contradiction to European values not mentioning human rights.

We urge you, Mr. Prime Minister, not to step this way burying the European future for Georgia.

Members of the European Parliament

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