



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

MEMO

Brussels, 27 March 2013

Statement by Commissioner Štefan Füle following his meeting with Mr Konstantin Kublashvili, the Chairman of the Georgian Supreme Court

Commissioner Stefan Füle met today Mr Konstantin Kublashvili, the Chairman of the Georgian Supreme Court. They discussed the pace of judicial reform in Georgia, and the EU-Georgia cooperation.

Commissioner Füle welcomed the constructive steps being taken to implement judicial reforms and stressed the importance which the EU attaches to the depoliticisation of the judiciary in Georgia. The EU calls on all branches of the Georgian government to maintain the momentum towards assuring the independence of the judiciary.

The EU continues to advise the Georgian government on judicial reform. In February, the Commission appointed Thomas Hammarberg as the EU's Special Adviser for Legal and Constitutional Reform and Human Rights in Georgia. Mr Hammarberg is advising Georgian state institutions, including the Supreme Court, on issues including judicial reform, legal reforms, and constitutional reform, as well as law enforcement, the penal system, and human rights.

Additionally, the EU provides a team of experts led by a senior judge to work with the Georgian Ministry of Justice on issues of criminal justice and human rights. The EU, together with the Council of Europe, is working with Georgia on prison reform.

The justice sector is among the most important and long-standing areas of EU-Georgia cooperation. EU has provided €34 million support to Georgia's criminal justice sector since 2008.

The EU will continue to priorities the support for the justice sector in Georgia during the next financial perspective. It is important for European Georgia to have an impartial, professional and independent judiciary system.