

H.E. Maka Botchorishvili

Minister of Foreign Affairs of Georgia

01 December 2024

Dear Excellency,

Following the first session of the new legislature of the Georgian Parliament, I am addressing you with a view to contribute to our future work and co-operation.

As you are aware, I had the privilege of serving as the Special Coordinator and Leader of the short term OSCE observer mission during the recent parliamentary elections in Georgia. This mission sought to observe and assess the electoral process, contributing to its transparency and integrity, as is practice throughout the entire OSCE region.

The preliminary findings of the observation mission highlighted both strengths and challenges within the electoral process. The elections provided voters with a wide array of choices and were well-administered in terms of technical preparations. Candidates could generally campaign freely while the campaign rhetoric was highly divisive and polarized. But as you have noticed in our joint preliminary findings and conclusions, we also raised some critical concerns. These included issues related to voter pressure and uneven playing fields due to financial imbalances, the underrepresentation of women on party lists and other challenges.

One issue that was of particular concern was the recently adopted legislation and its impact on fundamental freedoms and Georgia's civil society. Our findings, which should always be considered in a package, altogether underline the importance of addressing key areas to strengthen public trust and democratic standards.

Looking ahead, I trust that the Georgian Government and Parliament will follow up with due attention to the findings and recommendations, thereby lending a substantive contribution in the advancement of the national reform agenda and increasing public confidence.

With these considerations in mind, I would strongly encourage you and your colleagues in Parliament to study the preliminary report in detail and to engage closely with the ODIHR when the final report will be issued. It will offer a comprehensive analysis, and specific recommendations, which can provide a sound basis for drafting relevant electoral reforms during the course of the

legislature you have just started. Such reflections will be essential as Georgia navigates its ongoing political processes and works to enhance its democratic institutions.

In light of the challenges identified, the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly stands ready as well to engage and assist Georgia in addressing these issues. Our collective aim is to support your country in its journey towards stronger democratic governance and the rule of law, institution building as well as fostering an environment of inclusivity, transparency, and respect for fundamental freedoms.

Please do not hesitate to reach out should you require any support or collaboration in these endeavors. We look forward to witnessing the continued progress of Georgia in consolidating its democratic aspirations.

Yours sincerely,



Pascal Allizard

Vice President of the Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee of the French Senate

Special Coordinator and Leader of the OSCE short-term observer mission to Georgia 2024

CC:

H.E. Irakli Kobakhidze
Prime Minister of Georgia

H.E. Shalva Papuashvili
Speaker of the Parliament of Georgia