

Press statement by President Jean-Claude Juncker with Giorgi Kvirikashvili, Prime Minister of Georgia, in front of the EU stand on the day of celebration of the 100th anniversary of Georgia's First Democratic Republic

Dear Giorgi,

I am delighted to see the European Union playing such a full and visible role on this very special day for Georgia.

I am very proud that the Prime Minister was and is visiting our stand – this is the stand of the European Union and it is good to have him with us. We have come a long way together in a relatively short period of time. I thank him for his European spirit and for always having the courage of his convictions, which does not happen so often in Europe.

Georgia is a country close to my heart, close to the heart of Europeans, because we are friends and partners, linked by our history and by our geography.

Many other European countries are celebrating their 100 years of independence these days and I am particularly proud and happy to be here today because this is a very special day for Georgia.

I promised the Prime Minister years ago that Europe will always be on the side of Georgia. The more you reform, the more support we will give to you, our friends.

I am delighted that today I can announce an extra EUR 40 million worth of funds for this year's bilateral allocation. This brings to EUR 597 million the total of our financial support for Georgia from 2014 to 2018.

And on top of that, we have the possibility to announce a fresh macro-financial assistance worth EUR 45 million.

According to a promise I made to the Prime Minister, we have liberalised the visa regime. Since March 2017 more than 253,000 Georgians have travelled to Europe, and I would like to invite all of those who are here and who never dare to go there, because it is worth being visited.

We are launching in a few months from now a European School here in the city.

And we have agreed, the Prime Minister and myself, to have an annual meeting between the Georgian Government and the Commission. We are not doing this with each and every country but I would like this to happen year after year.

Thank you.

Speech by President Jean-Claude Juncker at the ceremony of celebration of the 100th anniversary of Georgia's First Democratic Republic

Mister President,

Mister Prime Minister,

Mister Speaker,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Dear friends,

It is a great honour indeed to be with you here today on this very emotional occasion. Today's centenary Independence Day is a historic moment for your great European nation.

The journey has not always been easy. The road to freedom never is.

But Georgia is a proud country, built on the courage and the ambition of its people.

In the last century, you took your future in your own hands. You chose hope over fear. And you never stopped fighting for your independence and your freedom until it was firmly restored.

As I stand here today, there can be no greater tribute than to say that a century on, Georgia has more than lived up to the spirit of 26 May 1918.

While the history of the Georgian people goes back millennia, that day, a century ago, modern Georgia was born.

A country built from the moment of its independence on the principles of democracy, equality and respect for human rights – values on which Europe is based today. These are not just words, these are not just aspirations. For all of us, these are enduring commitments. Through thick and thin, through conflict and pain, the Georgian have always stayed true to these values,

making you what you are.

I think of the fierce fighting and the long resistance to Soviet occupation and the efforts to strengthen your democracy.

This is the way you have honoured the spirit of 1918, this is what defines you as a country. And it is what makes our association and partnership such a natural one.

Georgia is a country that has always been part of Europe and has always looked towards Europe.

We are linked by history and by geography. Our fates and our destinies have long been intertwined.

But I want this special occasion to be the start of the next chapter in our common story.

I have always argued that the European Union must send a message of hope to Georgia and especially to its youth.

So I want us to break down more of the barriers that still exist between us, and step up our support to each other, building on the progress we have already achieved.

I am delighted that more than a quarter of a million Georgians have already visited Europe without a visa since March of last year. I hope many more will visit us soon.

I also hope that many more will join the thousands of Georgian teachers and students that have come to Europe to study or teach thanks to the Erasmus+ programme. I look forward to the first students being welcomed at the new European School in this city this September.

Georgia and the European Union always stand up for each other. We will always support Georgia's sovereignty and territorial integrity within its internationally recognised borders. And standing in front of your brave soldiers, I also want to thank you for Georgia's invaluable role in EU peace-keeping operations, serving noble causes.

Long live Georgia, love live Europe! May they live together forever.

Thank you.

[Speech by President Jean-Claude](#)

Juncker at the ceremony of celebration of the 100th anniversary of Georgia's First Democratic Republic

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Mister Prime Minister,

Mister Speaker,

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Thank you.

Main topics and media events 28 May – 10 June 2018

Press contacts

Press office

+32 2 281 63 19

Overview of the main subjects to be discussed at meetings of the Council of the EU over the next two weeks.

Foreign Affairs Council, Monday 28 May 2018

The Council will focus on the situation in Iran, Venezuela, the Democratic Republic of Congo and the future agreement with the African, Caribbean, and Pacific countries. Foreign ministers will also discuss the situation in Gaza, following the recent developments.

Competitiveness Council (Internal market and Industry), Monday 28 May 2018

The Council will carry out a competitiveness check-up on the impact of the internal market on industry. It will hold discussions on mutual recognition of goods and on online platforms-to-business relations.

Competitiveness Council (Research and Space), Tuesday 29 May 2018

The Council will debate on space policy, the extension of the EURATOM research programme as well as research and innovation in the context of the next EU's multiannual budget. It is due to adopt conclusions on knowledge circulation and the European Open Science Cloud. It will also take note of a report on high performance computing.

Justice and Home Affairs Council (Justice), Monday 04 June 2018

Justice ministers will discuss various topics including insolvency, contract law and parental responsibility. Jointly, home affairs and justice ministers will also discuss the draft legislation on e-evidence.

Justice and Home Affairs Council (Home Affairs), Tuesday 05 June 2018

Home affairs ministers will cover different aspects of the EU migration, security and terrorism policy.

Transport, Telecommunications and Energy Council on transport (Transport), Thursday 07 June 2018

The agenda includes, among other topics, key proposals on drivers' driving and rest times, the posting of road hauliers and cabotage restrictions; safeguarding competition in air transport; port reception facilities for the delivery of waste from ships; electronic road tolling and exchange of information; and the use of hired vehicles.

Transport, Telecommunications and Energy Council on transport (Telecommunications), Friday 08 June 2018

The Council is due to agree a general approach on a proposed Cybersecurity Act regulation. Ministers will also look at the progress made on a proposal to update privacy rules for electronic communications (ePrivacy), and discuss a draft directive to promote the re-use of public sector information.

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Indicative programme – Competitiveness Council, 28-29 May 2018

Press contacts

[V́ctor Flavián](#)

Press officer

+32 2 281 67 15

+32 473 64 03 90

Place:

Europa building, Brussels

Chairs:

Emil Karanikolov, Minister for Economy of Bulgaria

Krasimir Valchev, Minister of Education and Science of Bulgaria

All times are approximate and subject to change

MONDAY, 28 MAY 2018

+/- 08.00

Arrivals

+/- 08.50

Doorstep by Minister Karanikolov

Internal Market and Industry

+/- 09.30

Roundtable

Adoption of the agenda

Adoption of A items

+/- 09.40

Competitiveness check-up

+/- 10.30

Mutual recognition of goods – draft regulation ([public session](#))

+/- 11.30

Businesses using online platforms – draft regulation ([public session](#))

+/- 13.15

Artificial intelligence (informal lunch debate)

+/- 14.45

Roundtable

Any other business: ([public session](#))

- Recent initiatives in the digital single market
- Copyright package
- New deal for consumers package
- Company Law package
- Outcome of event in the field of tourism in 2018
- Supplementary protection certificates for medicinal products

Any other business: (not in public session)

- Unitary Patent and Unified Patent Court
- SOLVIT online service on the internal market (outcome of conference)
- Work programme of the incoming presidency

+/- 18.45

Press conference ([live streaming](#) from Europa building press room)

TUESDAY, 29 MAY 2018

+/- 08.30

Arrivals

+/- 09.25

Doorstep by Minister Karanikolov

Space

+/- 10.00

Roundtable

+/- 10.00

Future of the European space policy (debate)

Any other business:

- Outcome of events dedicated to space
- Work programme of the incoming presidency

Research

+/- 12.45

High-performance computing (informal lunch debate)

+/- 14.30

Roundtable

+/- 14.30

European high-performance computing joint undertaking (draft regulation)

+/- 14.45

Euratom programme 2019-2020 (draft regulation)

+/- 15.00

European Open Science Cloud (conclusions)

+/- 15.15

Accelerating knowledge circulation in the EU (conclusions)

+/- 16.00

Research and innovation within the context of the next Multiannual Financial Framework ([live streaming](#))

+/- 17.30

Any other business:

Work programme of the incoming presidency

+/- 17.45

Press conference ([live streaming](#) from Europa building press room)

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