



**PES Advisory Group on Eastern European Neighbours  
Fact-Finding Mission to Georgia  
26 March 2010**

**Report**

**Introduction**

The Party of European Socialists Advisory Group on Eastern European Neighbours, in cooperation with the Socialists and Democrats Group in the European Parliament and the European Forum for Democracy and Solidarity, held a fact-finding mission to Tbilisi, Georgia, on 26 March 2010. The delegation was co-chaired by Peter Schieder, Chair of the PES AG on Eastern European Neighbours and former President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (SPÖ, Austria), Jan Marinus Wiersma, Vice-President of the European Forum and former Vice-President of the Socialist Group in the European Parliament (PvdA, The Netherlands), and Hannes Swoboda, Vice-President of the S&D Group in the European Parliament (SPÖ, Austria). The delegation also included Libor Roucek, Vice-President of the European Parliament (CSSD, Czech Republic), Kristian Vigenin, PES Presidency Member, Chair of EURONEST and S&D Group Coordinator of the Foreign Affairs Committee in the European Parliament (BSP, Bulgaria), Kaloyan Pargov, Vice-Chair of the BSP Council of European Affairs, Municipal Councillor of Sofia (BSP, Bulgaria), Zoran Thaler, Vice-Chair of the Delegation to the EU-Armenia, EU-Azerbaijan and EU-Georgia parliamentary Cooperation Committees (SD, Slovenia), Katalin Piri, Political Advisor (S&D Group), Marianna Tsirelson, Information Officer (European Forum/AMS), Marina Ohanjanyan, Project Manager (European Forum/AMS), Martine Alonso Marquis, Assistant to Hannes Swoboda (S&D Group), Orietta Zanella, Assistant to Libor Roucek (S&D Group) and David Capezzuto, Political Advisor of the International Unit (PES),

The delegation held bilateral meetings with representatives from Georgia's current government and parliamentary majority, as well as progressive opposition parties. The mission participants also met with actors from civil society, academia and the media. Additionally, the delegation members held talks with EU officials, including Ambassador Per Eklund, Head of the EU Delegation in Georgia. The visit provided a major opportunity to assess the current state of affairs of Georgia and its opposition parties, while also contributing to a better grasp of the country's situation ahead of local elections and direct elections for the office of Mayor of Tbilisi, to be held on 30 May 2010.



## 1. List of participants:

|   |  |                                      |
|---|--|--------------------------------------|
| <b>Peter Schieder</b><br><i>Co-Chair</i>      | Chair of the PES EEN WG, Former President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe                               | SPÖ, Austria                         |
| <b>Jan Marinus Wiersma</b><br><i>Co-Chair</i> | Vice-President of the European Forum, Former Vice President of the Socialist Group in the European Parliament                  | PvdA, The Netherlands                |
| <b>Hannes Swoboda</b><br><i>Co-Chair</i>      | Vice-President of the S&D Group in the European Parliament   | SPÖ, Austria                         |
| <b>Kristian Vigenin</b>                       | PES Presidency Member, Chair of EURONEST and S&D Group Coordinator of the Foreign Affairs Committee in the European Parliament | BSP, Bulgaria                        |
| <b>Kaloyan Pargov</b>                         | Vice-Chair of the BSP Council of European Affairs, Municipal Councilor of Sofia  | BSP, Bulgaria                        |
| <b>Libor Roucek</b>                           | Vice-President of the European Parliament  | CSSD, Czech Republic                 |
| <b>Zoran Thaler</b>                           | Vice-Chair of the Delegation to the EU-Armenia, EU-Azerbaijan and EU-Georgia Parliamentary Cooperation Committees              | SD, Slovenia                         |
| <b>David Capezzuto</b>                        | Political Adviser of the International Unit  | PES                                  |
| <b>Kati Piri</b>                              | Political Adviser  | S&D Group in the European Parliament |
| <b>Marina Ohanjanyan</b>                      | Project Manager  | European Forum                       |
| <b>Marianna Tsirelson</b>                     | Information Officer  | European Forum                       |
| <b>Martine Alonso Marquez</b>                 | Assistant to MEP Hannes Swoboda  | S&D Group in the European Parliament |
| <b>Orietta Zanella</b>                        | Assistant to MEP Libor Roucek  | S&D Group in the European Parliament |



## 2. Programme

### Friday, 26<sup>th</sup> March 2010

- 10:30 - 11:20 Breakfast briefing with **Per Eklund**, Head of the EC Delegation
- 11:30 - 12:10 **Grigol Vashadze**, Minister of Foreign Affairs
- 12:20 - 13:40 **Akaki Minashvili**, Chairman of Foreign Relations Committee  
**David Darchiashvili**, Chairman of Committee on European Integration
- 13:50 - 14:50 **Lunch meeting with NGO Representatives**
- **Sozar Subari**, Member of the Council of Advisors to the UN Human Rights High Commissioner
  - **Ucha Nanuashvili**, Executive Director Human Rights Centre
  - **Ana Natsvlishvili**, Coordinator of the South Caucasus Network of Human Rights Defenders
  - **Zviad Koridze**, Freelance journalist and media-expert
- 15:00 - 15:50 **David Usupashvili**, Leader, Republican Party of Georgia
- 16:00 - 16:50 **Nino Burjanadze**, Leader, Democratic Movement for United Georgia
- 17:00 - 17:50 **Irakli Alasania**, Leader, Our Georgia - Free Democrats
- 18:00 - 18:50 **Visit to the EU Monitoring Mission Headquarters**
- Briefing by Ambassador **Hansjörg Haber**, Head of Mission
- 19:30 - 21:30 **Working Dinner** with representatives of the Union of Socialist Youth of Georgia



### 3. Pictures

