

## **ALDE condemns the authoritarian and anti-European turn in Georgia**

### **Acknowledges:**

- the Georgian people's will to join the EU;
- that Georgia was granted candidate status for EU membership last year after relevant steps were taken;
- the condemnation from human rights organisation and states on the adoption of the "Russian law" and violence against protestors, opposition and free press in Georgia.

### **Regrets:**

- the decision by the majority in the Georgian Parliament to override the veto from the President and to adopt the "Russian law";
- that the adoption of the "Russian law" and the new tax law, is taking Georgia in an anti-liberal and anti-European direction, which will prevent Georgia from becoming an EU member;
- that strong recommendations from the Venice Commission to repeal the "Russian law" has been ignored;
- that the adoption of the "Russian law" is targeting the work for free and fair elections by restricting domestic observers prior to parliamentary elections in 2024;
- the threats and violence towards protestors, opposition politicians and their supporters in Georgia;
- the anti-European and anti-Ukrainian propaganda of the Georgian Government.

### **Calls on:**

- the EU and European countries to impose travel bans and financial sanctions on Georgian Dream leaders and officials, "Russian law" initiators, and law enforcement involved in violence against peaceful activists and politicians;
- the EU and European countries to implement personal sanctions against Bidzina Ivanishvili and his family;
- the EU to be clear about the consequences for Georgia's membership, and the EU and member states to stress the consequences for visa-free travel and other EU-benefits, if the elections are not free and fair;
- EU leaders to distance themselves from the leaders of Georgian Dream to prevent propaganda manipulation by the Georgian Dream;
- the EU and European countries to increase their support for civil society in Georgia;
- increased monitoring of the election in Georgia.