



DET UDENRIGSPOLITISKE SELSKAB
THE DANISH FOREIGN POLICY SOCIETY

INVITATION

Seminar on State and Society Building in Georgia: Context and Challenges

Date and Time: 28 September 2016, 9 am to 1:30 pm,

Venue: Eigtvedspakhus, sal III, Strandgade 25, Copenhagen

The Danish Foreign Policy Society and Europe Foundation are pleased to extend an invitation to the seminar ***State and Society Building in Georgia: Context and Challenges***.

The purpose of the seminar is to take stock of social and political developments in Georgia. The seminar will bring together representatives from public, private and non-governmental sectors, academia, political spectrum, and experts on minority and media issues. Keynote speakers and invited participants will engage in discussions on how various actors represented at the seminar can work together to ensure that Georgia becomes a truly democratic state, with an effective public sector, strong civil society, and prosperous business community. The presentations will be followed by Q&A sessions, during which conference participants will have the opportunity to engage speakers in discussions.

The working language of the seminar is in English

For participation please register [here](#)

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Programme

In 2016, Georgia celebrated its 25th anniversary of regaining its independence. The country was ill-prepared for a path towards democracy, as its political elite had no experience in democratic governance, its business community had not been exposed to market economy, and civil society had to acquire a new role in a newly independent state. Furthermore, just a year after becoming an independent nation state, Georgia found itself entangled in multiple internal and external conflicts, which have split both the country and the society at large. The rifts that have been created as a result of the ousting of the first freely elected Georgian president and clashes over the status of the autonomous regions of South Ossetia and Abkhazia have yet to be healed and the conflicts remain unresolved to date. These challenges notwithstanding, Georgia has been committed to a strong pro-Western path toward liberal democracy, EU approximation and integration into the European family from the first days of its independence.

9:00 – 9:30 **Welcome**

Charlotte Flindt Pedersen, Director of the Danish Foreign Policy Society
Lone Dencker Wisborg, State Secretary for Foreign Policy
David Bakradze, State Minister of European and EuroAtlantic Integration of Georgia

9:30 – 11:00 **Context and Challenges in the State Transformation of Georgia**

External factors influencing the transformation process in Georgia by **Dr. Daniel Tarschys**, Professor, University of Stockholm, member of the Europe Foundation Board, former Secretary General, Council of Europe

Internal factors important for Georgian democratic development by **Dr. Anna Dolidze**, Parliamentary Secretary of the President of Georgia

The reform and transformation of justice system in Georgia by **Gocha Lortkipanidze**, Deputy Minister of Justice

Issues of good governance by **Nino Khurtsidze**, Vice President, Europe Foundation

Minority issues in Georgia by **Arnold Stepanyan**, Chairman, Public Movement Multinational Georgia

11:00 – 11:15 **Coffee Break**



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11:15 – 12:45 Context and Challenges in the State Transformation of Georgia

The media development by **Dr. Maia Mikashvidze**, Media Expert

The business environment in Georgia by **David Lee**, President, Magticom, Chairman of the Europe Foundation Board

Georgian political culture by **Dr. Maia Panjikidze**, International Secretary, Free Democrats Political Party, former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Georgia

War and Conflict in Georgia by **Erik Hoeg**, Deputy Head of Mission, EUMM

Regional Security and Stability Issues by **Paata Gaprindashvili**, Director, NGO GRASS

12:45 – 13:30 Key Points and Concluding Remarks

Summarising key points of the discussions by **Uffe Balslev**, Head, Department for European Neighbourhood, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Denmark, (Former Danish Ambassador to Georgia)

Summarising key points by **Märta Lisa Magnusson**, Centre for Caucasus Studies, Malmö University

Summarising key points from the discussion **Claus Mathiesen**, Danish Defence College

Concluding remarks by **Ketevan Vashakidze**, President, Europe Foundation



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About the Danish Foreign Policy Society

The Foreign Policy Society is a private, non-profit organisation, founded in 1946 with the purpose to promote interest in and create awareness about foreign policy and international affairs in general. The Society is independent from political as well as commercial interests. The Society does not take a stand on political issues, but merely engages in debates by conveying and sharing information and contacts. For more information, please visit our site: www.udenrigs.dk

About Europe Foundation

Europe Foundation's mission is to empower people to effect change for social justice and economic prosperity through hands-on programs, helping them to improve their communities and their own lives. To achieve its mission, EPF strives to strengthen the capacity of individuals and institutions, empowering them to address pressing issues and to mobilize relevant stakeholders in issue-based dialogue, through raising public awareness and creating various coalitions, platforms or working groups, so as to effect positive change. For more information, please visit our site: www.epfound.ge.