



Ministry of Foreign Affairs

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Minister Bogdan Aurescu attends meeting of the Group of Friends of Georgia

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Monday 20 April 2015 Minister of Foreign Affairs Bogdan Aurescu attended the meeting of the Group of Friends of Georgia, held in Luxembourg, on the side of the Foreign Affairs Council. The meeting was also attended by Georgian Minister of Foreign Affairs Tamar Beruchashvili.

In his speech, Romanian Minister of Foreign Affairs Bogdan Aurescu reiterated Romania's strong support of Georgia's European and Euro-Atlantic aspirations. This support is concrete and proven by the frequent and substantive bilateral dialogue that translated into recent visits on a Prime Minister or a Foreign Minister level.

Bogdan Aurescu also insisted on the importance of internal consensus in Georgia on reform continuity and welcomed the progress made in implementing the commitments undertaken by Tbilisi in relation to the EU and NATO. He underlined that the completion of the second phase of the Visa Liberalization Action Plan (VLAP) and the establishment of a clear date for visa liberalization for Georgian citizens would be a positive, tangible and substantial step to the direct benefit of all Georgian citizens, including those in separatist regions, and it would enhance their commitment to cooperate with Tbilisi.

Moreover, just as the other heads of European diplomacy, the Romanian Minister condemned the signing by Russia of a so-called "alliance and integration treaty" with the separatist republic of South Ossetia on 18 March 2015, an act that would further complicate the security situation in the Black Sea region.

Regarding the Riga Summit of the Eastern Partnership, the Romanian Minister underlined that its results should reflect both partner countries' commitment to move closer to the EU, and the EU's and its Member States' commitment to support these aspirations.

During the talks the implementation stage of the Association Agreement with Georgia was evaluated and support was expressed regarding the continuation of this process. The European support and appreciation message was reiterated related to the commitment of the Tbilisi authorities to make every effort to fulfill the remaining tasks in order for the European Commission to issue a positive report on the criteria relating to the second phase of the Visa Liberalization Action Plan (VLAP). The Ministers encouraged the pace of reforms, the ultimate objective being Georgian citizens' prosperity in a society where the rule of law and observance of human rights are ensured.

The Georgian Minister reasserted the Georgian party's commitment to continue the reform process, highlighting the Georgian people's firm irreversible option for democracy, rule of law and prosperity. In this context, the Georgian Minister recalled that the ultimate objective undertaken by national consensus is that Georgia should become a NATO and EU Member State. He reviewed expectations for the Eastern Partnership Summit (EaP) to be held in Riga during 21-22 May 2015, which is expected to be a time of balance and encouragement for the most advanced EAP states (the Republic of Moldova, Georgia and Ukraine) to come closer to the EU having European integration as their ultimate goal.

