



PARLIAMENT OF GEORGIA
C H A I R M A N

Tbilisi, 7 May 2020

Dear Mr. Kubilius,

First of all let me inform you that Georgia successfully copes with COVID-19 pandemic. Government, healthcare workers and other front-line professionals throughout the country are united and work hard in protecting the Georgian people. We stand in solidarity with the nations affected by the pandemic.

I am grateful for your keen interest in the political developments in Georgia, expressed in your letter of 6 May 2020.

The March 8 political agreement is indeed significant for further strengthening the foundations of a healthy and lively political environment, especially in the run-up to the parliamentary elections this year. It was signed by the Georgian Dream in good faith to contribute to free, fair and competitive elections. Shortly after signing it, we initiated relevant constitutional amendments reflecting election model agreed with the opposition. In addition, we have prepared the draft-package of amendments, with inclusive engagement of stakeholders, into election code based on OSCE/ODIHR recommendations. The draft-package will be discussed and adopted by the Parliament of Georgia within the ongoing session. Thus, these steps demonstrate our determination for implementing the political agreement as enshrined in the text.

I was concerned by the part of your letter referring to particular criminal cases. From our side it is understood as your call on the Parliament and the ruling party to politically intervene in the judiciary. It is against the basic tenets of the rule of law. Georgian courts cannot be ordered or directed by the political parties. Such reading of the situation was unexpected from the Co-President of the Euronest Parliamentary Assembly. You may rest assured that judgement on any criminal case will be made by relevant institutions only.

H.E. Andrius Kubilius
Co-President of the Euronest Parliamentary Assembly
Member of European Parliament
Brussels

No single criminal case is a part of the political agreement of 8 March 2020 (please, see the Memorandum of Understanding and the Joint Statement enclosed). Nevertheless, as mentioned in the Joint Statement, we remain committed to upholding and striving for the highest standards in the functioning of Georgia's judicial system and to avoiding any inappropriate politicization of our judicial and electoral processes in the future.

Let me use this opportunity to once again express our commitment to very close cooperation with you and to joint efforts for strengthening democracy and parliamentary dimension in Europe. We strongly appreciate your engagement and support.

Mr. Co-President, please, accept the assurances of my highest consideration.

Sincerely,



Archil Talakvadze