



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Ursula von der Leyen
The President

Brussels, 12.05.2020

Ares (2020) 284631

Your Excellency,

I would like to express my sincere gratitude for your congratulations upon the formation of the new European Commission and the start of my mandate as President.

Georgia is an important partner for the EU and the European Commission is committed to further advance our bilateral relations. As you note, the Association Agreement and the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area have opened the doors to new possibilities, and our political, diplomatic, commercial, educational and cultural, cooperation are indeed a testimony to the depth of our ties.

I welcome your wish to visit Brussels, once the public health situation allows. This would be an appropriate occasion to discuss new steps in EU-Georgia relations after the successful conclusion of 10 years of the Eastern Partnership, also in view of the future of this partnership. It would moreover allow us to discuss the EU's support to Georgia to address the health and socio-economic impact of the COVID-19 crisis.

We have recently published a Communication on the Global EU Response to COVID-19. The EU's response follows a 'Team Europe' approach, aimed at saving lives by providing quick and targeted support to our partners to face this pandemic. It combines resources from the EU, its Member States and financial institutions, in particular the European Investment Bank and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, to support partner countries and address their short-term needs, as well as the longer-term structural impacts on societies and the economy.

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H.E. Ms Salome Zourabichvili
President of Georgia

The first Team Europe packages are already being implemented in the neighbourhood, including in Georgia. Georgia will benefit from over 183 million euro in grants, which are being reprogrammed to support immediate and short-term needs. This is in addition to the substantial regional funding to support the health sector, the most vulnerable groups in society and directly support SMEs.

In addition to the Team Europe Strategy, the Commission has just adopted a proposal for a macro-financial assistance package to ten enlargement and neighbourhood partners. Georgia will have access to 150 million euro of loans from the EU on highly favourable terms to cover your country's immediate, urgent financing needs. Together with the International Monetary Fund's support, the funds can contribute to enhancing macroeconomic stability and creating space to allow resources to be allocated towards mitigating the coronavirus pandemic's negative socio-economic consequences for Georgia and its citizens.

On behalf of the European Commission and myself, I wish you and the Georgian people a lot of strength and perseverance to overcome this crisis. We stand by your side in these difficult times.

Yours faithfully,



Ursula von der Leyen