

To the attention of Presidential Troika of COSAC:

Mr. Kristian Ivanov Vigenin

Chairperson

Committee on European Affairs and Oversight of the European Funds

National Assembly of the Republic of Bulgaria

Dear Colleague,

We would like to express gratitude for your active work under the Bulgarian Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

We, the Parliamentary Committees of Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine, are addressing you jointly to draw your attention to current discussion of the future of the EU external financing instruments.

The European Union remains the world's biggest provider of external assistance for supporting economic and democratic reforms. Fruitful cooperation with the European Union in the framework of European Neighborhood Policy and the Eastern Partnership has been an effective and strong mechanism for our countries to promote democracy, rule of law and sustainable economic development. Continues deepening of our relations has been marked with the Association Agreements between the EU and our countries - Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine, as well as with the decisions on visa liberalization.

As part of the current discussion over the future of the Multiannual Financial Frameworks designed to support EU's external actions, it has been suggested that the specific financial instruments shall merge into global instrument for various regions with diverse political agenda and challenges. This is obviously an attempt to make the allocation of funds more flexible in the world of competing challenges and priorities.

Given the progress that has been achieved in the bilateral relations between the EU and our countries, as well as considering the importance of stability, peace and prosperity in the EU's immediate eastern neighborhood and for the stability and prosperity of the Union itself, we hereby urge you to consider maintaining a dedicated instrument for the candidate and Associated Countries of the Eastern Partnership.

Merging the most of the specific instruments into one global instrument would signal diminished political interest of the Union towards its immediate neighborhood, having in return devastating effects on the developments in our countries. Associated partners that are engaged in complex reforms by approximating their standards and laws with the EU norms and standards require and merit greater recognition and support.

We would like to address with the parliamentary dimension of Bulgarian Presidency with the request to support us in our joint efforts to make an impact on the ongoing discussions of post 2020 Multiannual Financial Framework for the benefit our partnership.

Sincerely,

Tamar Khulordava
Chairperson of the Committee of the Parliament of Georgia on European integration

Ivanov Violeta
Chairperson of the Parliamentary Commission of the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova
on Foreign Policy and European Integration

Mariia Ionova
Deputy Chairperson of the Committee of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine on European
integration