

Parliament of Georgia

Parliamentary Majority Factions

Statement

On the so-called Agreement on “Alliance and Strategic Partnership”, signed on November 24, 2014 between the President of the Russian Federation and the leader of the *de-facto* regime of Abkhazia

Georgian Parliamentary Majority Factions

Recall the statement made by the Parliament of Georgia on October 17, 2014, according to which signing the so-called “Treaty on Alliance and Strategic Partnership” is a step towards a complete annexation of Georgia’s ancient region – Abkhazia – by the Russian Federation;

Consider the so-called “treaty” signed in Sochi as an impediment to confidence building and the resumption of cooperation between Tbilisi and Sukhumi, which primarily will strengthen the occupation, and interpret it as an action against Georgia’s sovereign choice, and against its European and Euro-Atlantic aspirations;

Do not recognize the legitimacy of the so-called ‘treaty’ or other ‘agreements’ signed between Russia and its occupied region’s - Abkhazia’s - *de-facto* regime from 2008 to the present day;

Emphasize that the Russian Federation continuously violates the August 12, 2008 ceasefire agreement, the Georgian Constitution, the Charter of the United Nations, and the fundamental principles of international law by preparing the illegal economic, legislative, and political foundations to effectively incorporate part of a sovereign state;

Note that the normalization of relations between Georgia and the Russian Federation is essential for the realization of the long-term national interests of both countries, and for the creation of an atmosphere of stability and cooperation in the Caucasus region;

Condemn the so called agreement on ‘Alliance and Strategic Partnership’ between the Russian Federation and *de facto* regime of Abkhazia, since it:

- represents an attempt to strengthen and ‘legitimize’ the occupation of Georgian territories which is incompatible with international law and with the principle of good neighborliness;
- represents a step closer to the annexation of Georgia’s occupied territories;
- directly challenges the international legal order, the international community, and the Euro-Atlantic security architecture; undermines the rights of the population, especially of ethnic Georgians living in the region of occupied Abkhazia; intensifies the threat to the Abkhazian ethnos and the identity of the community, cultural distinctiveness, and prospects for development.
- prevents relations between the population that is divided by the occupation line, relations between the people of the region, restoration of trust, and the realization of peace policies.

In response to the abovementioned points, the Georgian Parliamentary Majority Factions

call on the Georgian Government, to:

1. Actively carry out coordinated measures to ensure that comprehensive information about the illegal actions taken by the Russian Federation and its negative effects are regularly delivered to partner countries and the international democratic community. To this end, immediately establish direct contact with senior officials and the heads of state of Georgia's partner countries; continue active consultation with the European Union, with its special representatives in the South Caucasus, and with all other Co-chairs of Geneva International Discussions with the maximum use of the abovementioned format.
2. Make every effort to make Russia's full implementation of the August 12, 2008 ceasefire agreement and the termination of the annexation politics of the Russian Federation a top priority issue on the international, Western, and Russian bilateral political agenda, including raising these issues decisively at the next round of Geneva talks.
3. Fully utilize multilateral legal, political, economic, humanitarian, and other levers existing in the international organizations; summarize the results of the ongoing bilateral dialogue with the Russian Federation and determine the future utility of the format.
4. Actively work with international media, think tanks and international organizations in order to actualize the danger of the annexation of Abkhazia and the Tskhinvali region.
5. Implement all necessary measures to ensure that the issue of Georgia's occupied territories and the threat of annexation is given a prominent place in the policies and requirements implemented by the international community towards the Russian Federation in response to similar actions in Ukraine.
6. Enhance efforts for strengthening socio-economic support for the Abkhaz population and the European prospects of the Abkhaz people, within the framework of Georgian legislation and strategy.
7. Enhance efforts to strengthen international participation, to mobilize the international community, and to raise awareness in order to protect and develop Abkhazian identity, security, and legal interests under the conditions created by the Russian policy of annexation.
8. Appeal to the international community to assess the movement towards annexation of the occupied region of Abkhazia by the Russian Federation and to take concrete measures to stop the illegal actions.

Call on the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO):

To start full-fledged implementation of the package adopted at the NATO Cardiff Summit.

Call on the European Union (EU):

To accelerate Georgia's process of political association and economic integration, including:

- Timely ratification of the Association Agreement by EU countries.
- To make a decision on a visa-free travel regime between Georgia and the EU at the 2015 Eastern Partnership summit in Riga.
- To grant European prospects to Georgia.

On behalf of the Parliamentary Majority Factions:

Faction Georgian Dream /Giorgi Volski/

Faction Georgian Dream – Republicans /David Berdzenishvili/

Faction Georgian Dream – Conservatives /Giga Bukia/

Faction Georgian Dream – National Forum /MalkhazVakhtangashvili/

Faction Georgian Dream – Entrepreneurs /GiorgiTopadze/

Faction Non-Party Independent Majoritarians /KakhaberOkriashvili/

Faction Independent Majoritarians – for Powerful Regions /GochaEnukidze/

Kutaisi

November 28, 2014