

## Donor Coordination Meeting

Tuesday, April 24, 2007, 14:00  
Business and Economic Centre  
Parliament of Georgia

### AGENDA

- Welcome note by Mrs. Nino Nakashidze
- Short update of running projects
- Presentation of Survey on Parliamentary Needs Assessment (by CPR)
- Miscellaneous

The meeting was chaired by Mrs. Nino Nakashidze, MP, Speaker-Appointed Coordinator for International Donor Projects.

#### **1. Short update of running projects**

Ms. Salome Shapakidze (IABP Georgia) reported about the activities of the organization, among which the opening of the Business and Economic Centre (BEC<sup>1</sup>) in February was a highlight event during the past months. The BEC which complements and assists the Parliament's Research Department offers a variety of research to the MPs in the fields of economy, finance and business. The Centre already began its operation and issued its first 'standard note', i.e. a research on a selected topic of interest about the important on-going issues. The selected notes are distributed in the whole Parliament. The MPs can also order an individual research on different topics which will be held confidential. In addition, the Centre conducts bigger research on different kinds of economic information, such as on poverty rate, etc. As well as that topic-based roundtable takes place once a month with the participation of business sector.

The main problem identified by the IABP during the period is the inactive engagement of the MPs to use the utmost of the BEC's capacities and resources. However, according to Ms.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.bec.org>

Nakashidze's remark, this problem will be resolved with the time when the BEC builds its confidence and gradually institutionalizes in the Parliament.

Mr. Jim Hart (NDI) reported that the NDI continues its work on the Parliamentary Rules and Procedure (ROP) and with the ROP Committee which works on the modification of the ROP for the next term of the Parliament when the number of MPs will decrease from 235 to 150.

The NDI also conducts training sessions for its parliamentary interns on drafting MP's written questions and preparing oral questions.

As regards the NDI's initiated – NGO Liaison Office, the problem with its launching is still undecided. Notwithstanding the fact that there are already two interns attached to the Office, the Parliament has not selected a relevant MP who will run and coordinate the work of the Office.

Ms. Nino Lagvilava (UNDP Gender Programme) briefed the participants about the opening of the Imereti Regional Gender Equality Resource Centre<sup>2</sup>. The Centre is located in Kutaisi Mayor's Office and aims to promote gender equality issues in the region, increase public awareness on human rights and gender and build women's capacity in decision-making position on local level.

In addition, the Gender Programme will work with five political parties to strengthen the women's participation and their standing in the parties.

Ms. Nino Khatiskatsi (TI Georgia) reported that TI continues its majoritarian project supported by the British Embassy. In its framework, the organization published posters reflecting the voting records of majoritarian MPs. The posters were presented at the regional meetings which were attended by majoritarian MPs, their bureau members, local population, and media. In total, 50 districts were covered.

In the framework of SDC supported project, TI Georgia continues to publish parliamentary committee reports. The report for the Foreign Affairs Committee is published and five more reports for different committees will be published in the next two months.

Apart from that, TI organized two focus group meetings on the Law on Corruption: first – in Prosecutor's Office in Tbilisi, second – in Kutaisi. Results of the meetings and their analysis are sent to the Legal Committee.

Ms. Manana Salukvadze (UNDP) spoke of UNDP's five main directions of activity, which are: (1) strengthening law-making, (2) improving the Parliament's internal structure, (3) assisting Public Relations Department and (4) Personnel Management Department and (5) enhancing ICT. In the framework of enhancing the Parliament's ICT, UNDP announced an international tender to purchase notebooks for 67 MPs and also for staff members. In terms of modifying web-portal, new pages and sites are being created. As well as that, LAN was installed and software developed for the Parliament's Official Representation in the Western Georgia.

In March, UNDP representatives met with the Speaker where the latter underlined the importance of the National Library. As a follow-up, UNDP designed a project and at this stage is searching for fundraising. Meanwhile, the organization is engaged in the digitalization of the Library's catalogues.

Mr. Bernhard Schloer (EUSPGeorgia) informed the participants that the EU Information Centre is launched in the Parliament in its preliminary form. In the framework of IT

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<sup>2</sup> <http://gender.imereti.ge>

enhancement, the project organized a conference on coordination of IT in governmental and parliamentary structures. As well as that a series of trainings have started. The topic for the first training was the law approximation. In the framework of establishing and coordinating PCA Unit, EUSPGeorgia receives a lot of questions from the Parliament related to EU legislation, such as the topics on e-signature, criminal procedures, etc. The tender announcement on purchasing a variety of technical equipment is still underway.

Mr. Oliver Reisner (EC Delegation in Georgia) made a remark on EU's policy shift from Tacis to ENP, i.e. the EU support will be directed more to the Parliament's professional development, e.g. in the fields of parliamentary oversight, budget control, rather than to technical enhancement.

## **2. Presentation of Survey on Parliamentary Needs Assessment (by CPR)**

Ms. Sopho Guruli (CPR) made a presentation of the Survey on Parliamentary Needs Assessment. The Survey was conducted among the MPs and staff members in May-July 2006 and it gives information on the most pressing needs within the Parliament focusing on professional development, communications, parliamentary oversight, law-making, technical support. The Survey results also revealed the most familiar donor projects for the MPs and the Staff.

## **3. Miscellaneous**

Mrs. Nino Nakashidze informed the participants about the new initiative of the Centre for European Studies, Dutch institution, to conduct a series of trainings for the parliamentary staff in the field of defense and security budget oversight. With the CPR's initiative, the representatives of the Budget Office will be also included in the list of participants.

Mrs. Nino Buachidze (USAID) reported on the visit of the US Congressional Delegation to the Parliament. As a follow-up, in July the staff of the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) will visit the Parliamentary Budget Office to exchange information and experience.

### **Agreements Reached and Requests Made:**

- *At the next donor coordination meeting the NDI will brief the meeting participants about the main developments taking place in the ROP;*
- *The Eurasia Foundation will prepare a presentation on the Foundation activities;*
- *While informing the participants that the CPR finalized the editing of the Journal on Parliamentary Reform Activities, Mr. Bacho Nadiradze (CPR) asked the donor projects to review the draft Journal and submit their remarks and suggestions to CPR within 4 days after they receive the draft;*
- *Mr. Jim Hart asked the UNDP representatives to modify the parliamentary web-portal so that the voting records are better exposed.*

## **List of Participants**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organisation</b>
Nino Nakashidze	Parliament of Georgia
Sophie Guruli Bacho Nadiradze	Centre for Parliamentary Reform (CPR)
Jim Hart Natia Jikia	National-Democratic Institute for International Affairs (NDI)
Manana Salukvadze	UNDP
Bernhard Schloer	EUSPGeorgia

Archil Bakuradze Salome Shapakidze	The International Association of Business and Parliament (IABP)
Tamar Karosanidze Nina Khatiskatsi	Transparency International Georgia (TI)
Nino Lagvilava	UNDP Gender and Politics Programme
Vakhtang Kobaladze	Swiss Regional Cooperation Office for South Caucasus (SDC)
Oliver Reisner	EC Delegation
Marie-Carin von Gumpfenberg Teona Gamtsemlidze	OSCE Mission in Georgia
Nino Buachidze	USAID
Zaal Anjaparidze	Eurasia Foundation
Ia Tikanadze	Friedrich Ebert Stiftung