

Donor Work Coordination Meeting

Monday, December 4, 2006, 12:00
Conference / Briefing Room (Room # 410, 5th Floor)
Parliament of Georgia

AGENDA

- Short update of running projects
- Project Proposal on the Parliamentary Budget Office (Initiator: T. Murghulia, Head of Budget Office)
- New Initiatives
- *Christmas Party*

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

1. Short update of running projects

Mr. Bernhard Schloer (EUSP Georgia) reported about the main activities of the project, particularly on the PCA Unit and Eurovoc. The start of the operation of the Unit is directly connected with the recruitment of the experts that will work in the Unit. EUSP Georgia already selected a number of experts and their approval by EC Delegation is expected. Mr. Schloer also introduced the activities of Irakli Sokolovski, the project's local expert, who is currently working on explanatory notes of the laws that must be implemented using international experience. As for the plans for 2007, the project progress report shall be signed by the Project's Steering Committee.

Mr. Schloer also raised the issue regarding the possibilities of celebrating Europe Day. He agreed with Mrs. Nakashidze to clarify the issue with the Parliament on its capacities to engage in the organizational process.

Mr. Jim Hart introduced Mrs. Mary O'Hagan, a new country director of NDI in Georgia and reported on the visit of Mr. Kenneth D. Wollack, President of NDI who held a number of meetings with high officials in Georgia.

Afterwards, Mr. Hart briefed the participants on the recent CDC Conference that was organized under the aegis of the Parliament of Georgia and with the support of NDI. Mr. Hart talked about the aims of establishing CDC and its advantages for Georgian legislature as well as for the country.

In the framework of NDI's faction development direction, another set of consultation meetings was held, this time with the Democratic Front faction.

In terms of NGO Liaison Office, Mr. Hart informed that a decision has been made to create a working committee of MPs who will be engaged in the operation of the Liaison Office.

Mrs. Marie-Carin von Gumpenberg of OSCE reported on the Mission's new project on supporting the role of the opposition in parliament. The OSCE-invited expert will arrive in Georgia in December to research the legal status and role of the opposition and review the current Rules of Procedure. The expert will hold a number of meetings with the Speaker, leaders of all parliamentary factions and other MPs. Mrs. Nakashidze suggested OSCE to closely cooperate with NDI since it is actively engaged in faction development issues and schedule meetings with relevant people in and outside the Parliament.

Mrs. Salome Shapakidze of IABP reported about the Conference on Economic Rehabilitation of the Conflict Zones that was organized by parliamentary commission on territorial integrity and with the support of IABP.

As well as that, IABP's attachment program continues and in its framework several MPs were introduced to the work of companies, such as Rustaveli Cinema and Agritexnics. As a comment, Mrs. Nakashidze recommended IABP to re-activate its work on FIAC.

Although the IABP's Business and Research Centre has not been officially opened yet, it has started its activities and already issued a first standard note. As for the Center's opening, it is planned in February.

Mrs. Nino Khatiskatsi of TI Georgia reported about the project's activities in 2006: 15 trainings on 7 different topics were conducted; Committee Reports were published for Legal Issues and Foreign Affairs committees; 8 publications (brochures, leaflets, poster) were issued; public meetings were organized throughout Georgia including meetings with majoritarian MPs and their Bureaus, regional meetings with the Committee on Regional Development and Self-Government, focus group meetings on various draft laws, voter education meetings in pre-election period.

Mrs. Khatiskatsi also raised the issue regarding the recent problems in respect of the Project's office in the Parliament that was closed by the Staff Leadership. The issue stays open for discussion between TI and the Parliament

Mr. Vaja Salamadze of CSI reported on the CSI's parliamentary project. The project continues its work on ensuring public participation in the legislative process by involving experts in committee hearings and providing expert analysis on draft laws. As well as that the Project constantly updates its web-site that informs citizens on legislative process. Mrs. Nakashidze suggested to publicize CSI's web-site by placing its link on the Parliament's web-site.

Mrs. Sophie Guruli and Mr. Bacho Nadiradze of CPR reported on their activities: undertaking regular meetings with each donor project to be informed on their activities and later brief Speaker-Appointed Coordinator and Speaker's Cabinet on these issues; finalizing work on needs assessment survey of the Parliament of Georgia; participating in OSCE/ODIHR Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting where CPR presented the participants with the overview of the reform processes in the Georgian Parliament.

2. Project Proposal on the Parliamentary Budget Office

Mr. Temur Murghulia, Head of the Parliamentary Budget Office (PBO), presented a new project proposal that aims to strengthen the capacities of PBO: provide professional development trainings, expertise and technical support in terms of software and hardware systems. The project proposal was distributed among the donors in order to inform the latter about the current needs in the Parliament and try to find possible solutions.

3. New initiatives

Mrs. Nakashidze informed about the new initiative of the Japanese government to assist the Georgian Parliament in terms of professional development. At this stage, the discussions are underway about the format of assistance.

4. Christmas Party

It was agreed to hold a Christmas Party for the donors in order to celebrate the Christmas and support the gathering of all the projects in the informal environment. CPR was assigned to plan and organize the mentioned event.

List of Participants

<i>Name</i>	<i>Organisation</i>
Nino Nakashidze Temur Murghulia	Parliament of Georgia
Sophie Guruli Bacho Nadiradze	Centre for Parliamentary Reform (CPR)
Mary O'Hagan Jim Hart Natia Jikia	National-Democratic Institute for International Affairs (NDI)
Bernhard Schloer Irakli Sokolovski	EUSPGeorgia
Salome Shapakidze	The International Association of Business and Parliament (IABP)
Vazha Salamadze Guranda Romanadze	Civil Society Institute (CSI)
Nina Khatiskatsi	Transparency International Georgia (TI)
Vakhtang Kobaladze	Swiss Regional Cooperation Office for South Caucasus (SDC)
Marie-Carin von Gumppenberg Teona Gamtsemlidze	OSCE Mission in Georgia