

# SPEAKERS

## GEORGIA AT THE NEXUS OF DEMOCRATIZATION AND EUROPEANIZATION: PROSPECTS AND CHALLENGES

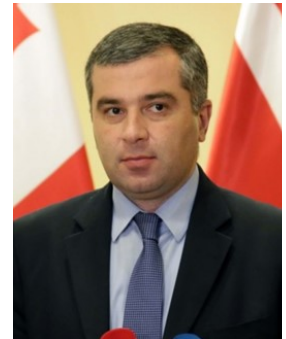


Radisson Blu Iveria Hotel, Tbilisi | 16 May 2017



**Davit Usupashvili** was Speaker of Parliament of Georgia from 2012 to 2016 and Chairman of the Republican Party of Georgia from 2005 to 2013. Previously, he worked for the USAID Rule of Law Program (1999-2005). From 2000, he was Executive secretary of the Anti-Corruption Working Group of the President. In 1994-1997 he was Head of the Georgian Young Lawyers Association. In 1992, he became a Legal Advisor to the President and Representative of the President to the Parliament. From 1990 to 1994 he was a member and a legal consultant of the Central Election Commission (1990-1994).

**David Bakradze** is one of the leaders of the Movement for Liberty-European Georgia and a member of the Parliament of Georgia. Previously he served as the Chairman of the Parliament of Georgia from 2008 to 2012; Minister of Foreign Affairs of Georgia (2008); Minister for Conflict Resolution Issues (2007-2008); Director of the Department of the Staff of the National Security Council of Georgia (2002-2004); and Director of the Department at Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia (1997-2002). He was also the President of Georgia's special envoy to NATO and the European Union (April-June, 2008).



**Dr. Max Bader** is a lecturer at Leiden University with expertise on Russia and Eurasia. He previously was a lecturer and researcher at the University of Amsterdam, the Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich, and the OSCE Academy. He was also a visiting scholar at George Washington University and the Kyiv-Mohyla Academy.

**Levan Tsutskiridze** works as the Executive Director of the Eastern European Neighborhood Office of the Netherlands Institute for Multiparty Democracy (NIMD). Before joining NIMD, he worked as Rector of the Georgian Institute of Public Affairs (GIPA). Earlier, he was a project manager in reform of the Georgian civil registration system. He has also served with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and with the Open Society Georgia Foundation. His research and professional interests include foreign and security affairs, political institution building and democratic development.



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**Levan Kakhishvili** is a Researcher at Georgian Institute of Politics and a Lecturer and Administrator of Graduate Programmes in International Relations at the International Black Sea University (IBSU). As an Invited Lecturer, he also cooperates with Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University (TSU). Mr. Kakhishvili has published various articles, policy papers and book chapters. Previously, he worked for German Institute of International and Security Affairs (SWP), Caucasian House, East-West Management Institute and European Centre for Minority Issues. He has obtained Master's degrees from the University of Oxford, St Anthony's College, and from TSU. His research interests include politics and international relations of the former Soviet Union, and Georgia's foreign policy.

**Prof. Kornely Kakachia** is Professor of Political Science at Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University, Georgia, and Director of the Tbilisi-based think tank the Georgian Institute of Politics (GIP). His current research focuses on Georgian domestic and foreign policy, security issues of the wider Black Sea area and comparative party politics. He is a recipient of IREX and OSI fellowships and was a visiting fellow at Harvard University's Black Sea Security program, (2009–2010) Harriman Institute, Columbia University (2011) and The Johns Hopkins University's School of Advanced International Studies.



**Prof. Charles H. Fairbanks, Jr.** is a professor of Soviet and post-Soviet systems at Ilia State University and a senior fellow at the Hudson Institute. He previously worked as a research professor of international relations and the director of the Central Asia-Caucasus Institute at Johns Hopkins University's School of Advanced International Studies. He also served as a deputy assistant secretary in the U.S. Department of State and a member of the department's policy planning staff.

**Dr. Giorgi Kakhiani** has served since November 2013 as Chairman of the Committee of Procedural Issues and Rules at the Parliament of Georgia and an Associated Professor at that Law Faculty of Tbilisi State University since 2011. Previously, from 2005 to 2007, Dr. Kakhiani worked as a Senior Adviser in the Department of Legal Provision at the Constitutional Court of Georgia.



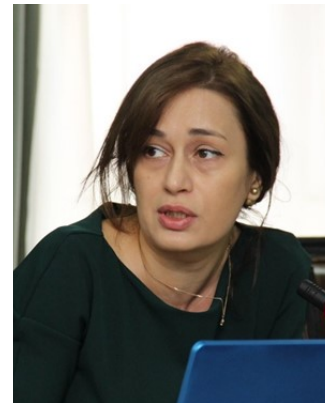
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Since June 2016, **Dr. Anna Dolidze** has worked as the Parliamentary Secretary of the President of Georgia. Previously, from May 2015, she was Deputy Minister of Defense, overseeing the areas of education, social benefits and the rehabilitation of wounded warriors. From 2004-2006 she occupied the position of Chairperson of the Georgian Young Lawyers' Association (GYLA). Dr. Dolidze has lectured at Duke University, Sorbonne University, the University of Berkeley, Cambridge and Oxford Universities, Queens University of Belfast and the Elmira Maximum Security Correctional Facility in New York State. In 2013, she became Assistant Professor of Law at the University of Western Ontario, where she taught property law and international law. Dolidze has received her BA from Tbilisi State University, LLM from Leiden University and SJD from Cornell University. Dr. Dolidze has published widely on international law, human rights and transitional justice in academic as well as policy journals. She has 15 years experience working with Georgian and international organizations.

**Dr. Lika Sajaia** is the Parliamentary Secretary at Transparency International Georgia. She received her doctoral degree in law at Tbilisi State University. She is involved in the academic work in different higher educational institutions since 2007. Lika is an Associate Professor at Guram Tavartkiladze Teaching University. Additionally, in the years 2008-2009, she was a doctorate student as well as a scholar at the Max Planck Institute for Intellectual Property and Competition Law, where also worked on the scientific research in copyright law. Lika is the author of various scientific articles. She has experience of working in the public sector, as well - in the Regional Center for Research and Promotion of Constitutionalism, department of research. Lika has worked in the Parliament of Georgia, in the Legal Issues Committee and is the author of the several laws adopted in the years of 2013-2014 by the Parliament of Georgia.



**Laura Thornton** is the National Democratic Institute's (NDI) resident director in Georgia, having previously served in the same capacity for the NDI in Cambodia, Thailand and Malaysia. She designed and directed NDI's regional programs on political party reform in eight Asian countries from 2001 to 2005. In addition, she managed and evaluated institute programs in Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, the Philippines, South Korea, Sri Lanka and Timor-Leste.



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**Tornike Zurabashvili** is a Tbilisi-based political analyst and the Editor-In-Chief of Civil Georgia, a trilingual source of information on Georgia. In 2016, he worked as a Research Fellow at Georgia's Reforms Associates (GRASS), a Tbilisi-based policy watchdog institution and think tank. From 2011-2012 Mr. Zurabashvili served as a program officer at the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES). He is a graduate of Trinity College Dublin, Department of Political Science.

**Prof. Oliver Reisner** is Jean Monnet Professor of European and Caucasian Studies at Ilia State University. Previously, he worked with the EU Delegation to Georgia and World Vision Georgia. Among other things, he focuses on Europeanization, nation-building, identity, and memory studies in the context of the Caucasus.



Since November 2016, **Tamar Khulordava** has worked as a Chairperson of the Committee on European Integration at the Parliament of Georgia. In 2015-2016 she served as First Deputy Minister at the Ministry of Corrections of Georgia. From 2005-2015, she worked as a lawyer and Manager of the Rule of Law Program at the EU Delegation in Georgia as well as a guest lecturer at Tbilisi State University (2007 - 2008). Dr. Khulordava holds degrees in Law from Tbilisi State University.

**Dirk Schuebel** is the Head of the Eastern Partnership Bilateral Division of the European External Action Service. He has previously held various positions within the European Commission, the European External Action Service and the German Foreign Ministry going back to 1992. In his time at the European institutions he has served as Head of the Delegation to the Republic of Moldova following a diplomatic posting as Head of the Political and Press Section at the Delegation to Ukraine and Belarus.



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**Thorniké Gordadze** is a senior advisor on Studies, Training and Research at the French Institute for Higher National Defense Studies. Until October 2012, he was the State Minister for European and Euro-Atlantic Integration of Georgia, having been previously Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Georgia (2010-2012) and chief negotiator for Georgia on the Association Agreement and the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade agreement with the European Union. Before joining the government he was a researcher at the Paris-based Center for International Studies and Research (CERI) and a visiting researcher at Yale University (USA). He has taught political science and sociology at various French universities. He is the author of numerous academic and research papers published in various European and American scientific reviews.

**Kakha Gogolashvili** is a Senior Fellow and Director of European Studies at the Georgian Foundation for Strategic and International Studies (GFSIS). From 1990, he worked in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia in charge of international economic relations. From 1994 to 1996 he engaged in official negotiations on the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (PCA) between Georgia and European Communities. During the subsequent four years (1996-2000) he worked at the Mission of Georgia to the EU as a counselor and later as a Deputy Chief of Mission/Chargé d'affaires a.i. He holds the diplomatic rank of Envoy Extraordinary Plenipotentiary. For the last 15 years, Dr. Gogolashvili has been engaged in different projects contributing to Europeanization, in particular assisting the Georgian government in designing and implementing institutional and legal reforms carried out according to the PCA, ENP, and other relevant frameworks for EU-Georgia relations. In the same time he was actively performed research and policy analyses on issues related to Georgia's prospectives for integration into European structures, published considerable number of papers and contributed as an author and editor of four books. 2016-2017 has been elected chairman of Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum Georgia National Platform. Member of steering Committee of EaP CSF



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