

## “Prospects and challenges for the Europeanisation of Georgia”

**Roundtable - Monday 22 October 2018 – Clingendael (The Hague)**

With the launch of the visa-free regime between the EU and Georgia in March 2017, Georgian former Prime-Minister Kvirikashvili declared “Georgia is returning to the European family”. Meanwhile, the EU is experiencing a multiplicity of crises including the Brexit, the continuing migration crisis and the rise of nationalist-populist parties in its Member States as well as concerns over the Rule of Law. Such issues have made French president Macron conclude that the EU first needs to make “a real reform to allow a deepening and better functioning of the European Union” before allowing new members in. Indeed, enlargement with the Eastern Partnership countries currently seems off the table. At the same time, the Georgian Europeanisation process continues slowly, though the challenges of democratic consolidation of the country and its long-term security remain. These developments raise the question what the future of EU-Georgian relations holds.

This seminar explores the future of EU-Georgia relations in the fields of democracy and rule of law; economic integration; and security and military affairs, in light of the Association Agreement, Eastern Partnership Framework and beyond. It discusses the Europeanisation challenges Georgia faces in the context of enlargement fatigue on both sides, asking how momentum for the process can be retained. The seminar brings together experts from the Georgian Institute of Politics (GIP - Tbilisi, Georgia) and the Clingendael Institute (The Hague, Netherlands) and their networks, diplomats, politicians, policymakers and other practitioners. It is convened in a confidential setting, aimed at facilitating and encouraging direct exchange.

### Seminar Programme

09.30           **Registration and coffee (Hall)**

10.00 – 12.15 **Seminar**

Speakers:

- H.E. Mr. Konstantine Surguladze, Ambassador of Georgia to the Kingdom of the Netherlands
- Kornely Kakachia, Director – Georgian Institute of Politics (GIP)
- Renata Skardžiūtė-Kereselidze, Deputy Director - Georgian Institute of Politics (GIP)

12.15           **Informal Lunch**

The seminar will be moderated by Tony van der Togt (Associate Fellow, Clingendael Institute)