

Press Release

*For immediate distribution
October 23, 2009*

European Integration and Eastern Partnership: Challenges and Opportunities

Tbilisi. Eurasia Partnership Foundation (EPF) will kick off its second round of public discussions on European Integration on Friday, October 23rd. Through its European Integration program, EPF conducts roundtable discussions to promote the wider participation of Georgian society in the process of committing towards common European values.

This year's first roundtable will bring together actors from civil society, trade unions, and business associations to discuss expectations for the new Eastern Partnership (EaP) initiative, which was approved in May 2009 in Prague, Czech Republic. Representatives of the European Commission Delegation, EaP countries, diplomatic missions, the Georgian government, and Parliament will also participate in the meeting.

EPF will also present the results of a new assessment of public attitudes towards European integration in Georgia, which was performed by EPF's Caucasus Research Resource Centers.

The roundtable discussions complement the activities of the European Neighborhood Policy Action Plan (ENP AP) Implementation Support Program, implemented by the ENP AP Implementation Monitoring Coalition. The Coalition's activities work to promote government implementation of the action plan and improve public understanding of the specific benefits to Georgia derived from ENP.

The next round table meeting will be dedicated to the issues of a deep and comprehensive free trade agreement, in particular to technical barriers to trade, food safety, competition, and intellectual property rights. The recommendations adopted at the roundtable discussions will be distributed through EPF newsletters to all stakeholders.

The meeting will be held on October 23, 2009, 10:00-14:00 at the Courtyard Marriot (4 Freedom Square, Tbilisi, Georgia).

Contact person:
Nikoloz Jashi
European Integration Program Manager
822 252778/82
899 928003
njashi@epfound.ge