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## **Appeal by the Freedom Party to the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe (ALDE) on the Preservation of Democracy and Freedom in Georgia**

Dear President Svenja Hahn,

On behalf of the Lithuanian Freedom Party, we wish to express our profound concern regarding the alarming deterioration of democracy and the rule of law in Georgia. Recent developments have underscored a disturbing trend of authoritarian consolidation under the Georgian Dream party, which poses a significant threat to the country's democratic institutions, civil society, and aspirations for European integration.

The current illegitimate Georgian regime, led by the Georgian Dream party and its founder, Bidzina Ivanishvili, has systematically undermined fundamental democratic principles. This regime has actively dismantled democratic checks and balances, manipulated parliamentary elections, and instated an illegitimate parliament, which, in turn, appointed an equally illegitimate president. The illegitimate regime has attacked the judiciary's independence, suppressed media freedom, and waged an ongoing campaign of repression and disinformation against political opponents.

The newly appointed, yet illegitimate, President of Georgia, Mikheil Kavelashvili, has signed into law draconian measures that severely restrict the freedom of assembly, in an attempt to quell ongoing protests. These amendments increase penalties for alleged breaches of assembly procedure by a factor of 10 to 20, introduce new coercive measures such as preventive detention, and grant police officers broad discretion to disperse assemblies, detain protesters, and impose fines.

The ruling regime has increasingly portrayed Western institutions as external threats to Georgia's sovereignty, using this rhetoric to justify actions that erode democratic norms and consolidate power. These tactics bear striking similarities to the disinformation campaigns of Russia, contributing to a dangerous narrative that undermines Georgia's pro-European path.

The recent European Parliament resolution on Georgia's democratic crisis, as well as the U.S. Department of State's sanctions on Ivanishvili, underscore the extent of the regime's malign influence and involvement in anti-democratic practices. The actions of the illegitimate Georgian regime—including election manipulation, the repression of civil society, and the harassment of independent media—demand a firm and coordinated response from European political parties committed to defending democracy and human rights.

In light of these developments, we respectfully call upon ALDE and its member parties to take immediate and decisive action in support of Georgia's pro-European democratic forces. The future of democracy in Georgia is intrinsically linked to that of other countries in the region, including Armenia, Moldova, and all societies striving to resist Russian interference. Specifically, we urge ALDE and its member parties to press their members of the national parliaments, cabinet ministers of the national governments and elected Members of the European Parliament to:

1. **Adopt a policy of non-recognition of the illegitimate Georgian Dream regime**, including its current illegitimate parliament and the illegally appointed president, Mikheil Kavelashvili. The current illegitimate government does not represent the democratic will of the Georgian people and must be politically isolated.
2. **Recognize President Salome Zourabichvili as the sole legitimate representative** of the Georgian people. Her pro-European and pro-democratic stance, along with her calls for reform, should receive the full support of the European political community.



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3. **Support the political and diplomatic isolation of the Georgian Dream regime** on the international stage. European and national political organizations and institutions should cease any engagement that may lend legitimacy to this authoritarian regime. Diplomatic ties should be limited, and engagement should focus on the legitimate democratic opposition and civil society representatives.
4. **Impose targeted sanctions on members of illegitimate parliament, the president, the prime minister, and other key officials** of the Georgian regime responsible for democratic backsliding, electoral fraud, political persecution, and human rights abuses.
5. **Strengthen efforts to combat sanctions evasion** by the Georgian regime and its affiliated entities. The European community must actively work to prevent the Georgian regime from facilitating the circumvention of international sanctions imposed on Russia.
6. **Initiate an international investigation into election fraud** and the repression of civil society and independent media in Georgia, to ensure accountability and shed light on the regime's anti-democratic actions.
7. **Suspend all financial assistance to Georgian regime institutions** that may be used to sustain the anti-democratic agenda. European funds should be redirected to support civil society and pro-democratic initiatives.
8. **Advocate for new parliamentary elections in Georgia**, to be held under international supervision, ensuring a free and fair electoral process.
9. **Call for the immediate release of political prisoners** in Georgia. The regime's use of politically motivated charges to silence dissent is unacceptable and must be condemned.
10. **Provide parliamentary support to Georgia's democratic forces** by fostering enhanced cooperation with pro-democratic parties and institutions in Georgia.
11. **Strengthen support for Georgian civil society and independent media**, ensuring the survival of a free press and vibrant civil society, which are essential for the long-term health of Georgia's democracy.
12. **Defend the rights of LGBTIQ individuals in Georgia**. The current regime's persecution and demonization of LGBTIQ people are reminiscent of authoritarian practices in Russia and must be firmly condemned by European and national institutions.
13. **Call for the repeal of repressive laws**, including the "foreign agents" law and other legislative measures that undermine civil liberties and democratic freedoms in Georgia.
14. **Convene hearings and pass resolutions in national parliaments** to keep international attention focused on Georgia and its democratic struggle.

The Freedom Party stands in full solidarity with the people of Georgia in their fight for democracy, freedom, rule of law and European integration. We believe that the European community, including ALDE, has both a moral and political obligation to stand against authoritarianism and to support those who are struggling for democratic governance.

We trust that ALDE will give this appeal the attention it deserves and act swiftly to assist Georgia's democratic forces in their efforts to restore democracy, uphold human rights, and secure a European future for the country.

Yours sincerely,  
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Party Leader  
Freedom Party of Lithuania