

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-000054/26
to the Commission
Krzysztof Brejza (PPE)
(9 January 2026)**

Subject: Warning of democratic backsliding in Georgia

At present, dozens of activists and peaceful demonstrators are being detained in Georgia following public protests against the illegitimate government of Georgia, the 'Georgian Dream' party. Despite repeated calls and statements from the EU, the ruling party has failed to take any meaningful steps to safeguard fundamental human rights. On the contrary, the actions of the authorities continue to systematically and progressively exacerbate the situation of Georgian citizens on a daily basis.

Given this situation:

1. What concrete measures does the Commission intend to take to ensure the release of political prisoners in Georgia, given that previous actions have proved ineffective?
2. Does the Commission consider that, in the light of the current political situation in Georgia, the country's status must be reviewed, since the ongoing developments do not reflect EU values?

Submitted: 9.1.2026

**Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Kallas on behalf of the European Commission
(16 March 2026)**

The EU has reacted firmly to Georgia's serious democratic backsliding, including violence against protesters, opposition figures, journalists and civil society, the adoption of repressive legislation and the instrumentalisation of the justice system. These actions are fundamentally incompatible with EU values of democracy, rule of law and human rights.

In response to the country's democratic backsliding, the EU has downgraded political contacts with the Georgian authorities and suspended bilateral financial assistance directly benefitting them.

The EU has also repeatedly called for the release of all journalists, activists and others unjustly detained and continues discussions among Member States on further measures, including sanctions, which require unanimity in the Council.

As a consequence of Georgian authorities' course of action, Georgia's EU accession process has effectively come to a standstill. In its 2025 Communication on EU enlargement policy ⁽¹⁾, the Commission concluded that in light of Georgia's continued backsliding on the fundamentals since then, it considers Georgia a candidate country in name only.

Recently, the Commission has initiated procedures to activate the revised Visa Suspension Mechanism in reaction to non-compliance with visa liberalisation benchmarks in key areas of governance and human rights, as observed in the Seventh ⁽²⁾ and Eighth ⁽³⁾ Suspension Mechanism Report.

The EU remains ready to support the Georgian people's European aspirations, while underlining that a return to the EU accession path is fully in the hands of Georgia's authorities and requires a genuine and irreversible commitment to EU values.

⁽¹⁾ https://www.eeas.europa.eu/delegations/georgia/2025-communication-eu-enlargement-policy-extract-about-georgia_en?s=221.

⁽²⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=COM%3A2024%3A571%3AFIN>.

⁽³⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52025DC0792&qid=1768565258267>.