

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002216/26
to the Commission
Liudas Mažylis (PPE)
(1 June 2026)**

Subject: Higher education reforms in Georgia and their compatibility with the principles of EU integration

According to publicly available information, the Georgian Government plans -- from the 2026-2027 academic year onwards -- to restrict admissions of students from foreign countries to public universities, with only limited exceptions provided for. ⁽¹⁾ Meanwhile, private universities will remain open to international students. These changes raise questions regarding their compatibility with the principles of the European Higher Education Area (EHEA), in particular the promotion of academic mobility. ⁽²⁾

In addition, there are reports that the Georgian Government is planning to review and streamline the study programmes on offer, including by cutting overlapping curricula. ⁽³⁾ These decisions may affect studies in the social sciences and humanities, which attract the largest number of prospective students. This again raises questions regarding compliance with EHEA standards on universities' ability to operate and establish study programmes autonomously and without political interference. ⁽⁴⁾ For these reasons, some experts view these reforms as evidence of backsliding by the current Georgian Government in the European integration process.

Could the Commission answer the following questions:

1. How does the Commission assess the Georgian Government's plans to reform higher education in Georgia, taking into account the commitments that country has made to the European integration process?
2. Does the Commission plan to conduct a comprehensive impact assessment of these reforms with regard to academic freedom and institutional autonomy?
3. What measures does the Commission intend to take to encourage the Georgian Government to comply with the EHEA criteria?

Submitted: 1.6.2026

**Answer given by Ms Kos on behalf of the European Commission
(24 August 2026)**

The higher education reform in Georgia raises questions regarding the country's alignment with its commitments under the European Higher Education Area and the Bologna Process, in particular in relation to equity, equality of access to quality education and respect for institutional autonomy and academic freedom.

While the organisation and financing of education systems remain primarily a national competence, reforms should respect the international commitments undertaken by Georgia.

The Commission will continue to follow the situation in the education sector in Georgia closely and will present its assessment of recent developments as part of the 2026 Enlargement Package. This will be published, and presented to the European Parliament, in autumn 2026.

The Commission will continue to promote the fundamental values of the European Higher Education Area and to support academic cooperation and people-to-people contacts in Georgia through the international dimension of the Erasmus+ programme.

¹ 'Education Minister: Foreign students will no longer be admitted to state universities.' Georgia Today, December 5, 2025. Available online: <https://georgiatoday.ge/education-minister-foreign-students-will-no-longer-be-admitted-to-state-universities/>. Accessed April 24, 2026.

² Laitadze, Irikli. 'Georgian Government's Educational Reform Sparks Academic and Societal Protest.' Central Asia-Caucasus Institute's Substack, March 23, 2026. Available online: <https://centralasiacaucasusinstitute.substack.com/p/georgian-governments-educational>. Accessed April 24, 2026.

³ Chkareuli, Tamuna. 'Why Georgia's most vocal university now faces the biggest cuts.' OC Media, March 6, 2026. Available online: <https://oc-media.org/why-georgias-most-vocal-university-now-faces-the-biggest-cuts/>. Accessed April 24, 2026.

⁴ 'Disputed Parliament Adopts Controversial Changes.' Civil Georgia. February 4, 2026. Available online at: <https://civil.ge/archives/720001>. Accessed April 24, 2026.