

Statement of the EURONEST Parliamentary Assembly

on the release of Dr. Vazha Gaprindashvili

9 December, 2019

The EURONEST Parliamentary Assembly,

1. Calls for the immediate release of **Dr. Vazha Gaprindashvili**, a well-known Georgian physician and president of the Association of Orthopedists and Traumatologists of Georgia, who was sentenced by the de facto authorities in Georgia's Tskhinvali region on November 15 to two months of pretrial detention;
2. Condemns the unlawful detention of the doctor by the de-facto authorities and calls for all charges against him to be dropped and to ensure unhindered access to the region in line with international humanitarian law;
3. Urges the international community to use necessary peaceful means to achieve the release of doctor Vazha Gaprindashvili in the occupied Tskhinvali region;
4. Reiterates its full support for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Georgia within its internationally recognized borders.