



Joint statement by

- the Chair of the Committee on Foreign Affairs (AFET), MEP David McALLISTER,
- the Chair of the Subcommittee on Human Rights, MEP Mounir SATOURI,
- the Chair of the Delegation to the Euronest Parliamentary Assembly, MEP Sergey LAGODINSKY,
- the Chair of the Delegation for relations with the South Caucasus, MEP Nils UŠAKOVŠ,
- the AFET Standing Rapporteur on Georgia, MEP Rasa JUKNEVIČIENĖ,

on the local elections in Georgia

Strasbourg, 7 October 2025 - *“Georgia's local elections of 4 October 2025 took place in a restrictive environment, in the context of a months-long crackdown on civil society, independent media and political opposition by the self-appointed Georgian Dream authorities. We deplore the fact that the authorities effectively prevented the presence of credible election observers, with a late invitation to the OSCE/ODIHR and restrictions on civil society hampering observation by domestic organisations.*

We are concerned by the violent clashes in the streets following the elections and call for calm from all. We urge the Georgian Dream to stop its assault on democracy and respect the fundamental rights of freedom of assembly and expression, stop the arrests of protesters and release those arbitrarily detained. We also deplore the increasingly aggressive campaign against the EU, including personal attacks on the EU and Member State ambassadors, European politicians and individual Member States.

We strongly denounce the Georgian Dream's declared intention to ban opposition parties, which would mark a new culmination of Georgia's slide towards an authoritarian regime. We reiterate our call on the EU and its Member States to take immediate action and to introduce personal sanctions against key Georgian Dream political leaders and officials responsible for democratic backsliding, electoral fraud, human rights violations and the persecution of political opponents and activists, in particular Bidzina Ivanishvili and Irakli Kobakhidze.”

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