



The South Caucasus concert: Each playing its own tune

The role of the EU, Turkey, Russia, the US and Iran in South Caucasus development and security

Date: Monday, 12 October 2015

Venue: Georgian Mission to the European Union
Rue Pere Eudore Devroye 245, Brussels

This seminar is organised by FRIDE as part of the CASCADE project 'Exploring the Security-Democracy Nexus in the Caucasus, in partnership with the Georgian Embassy in Belgium. It aims to analyse the policies of external actors in the South Caucasus. It will examine the policies of the European Union, Turkey, Russia, the United States and Iran in the fields of democracy and affiliation (the EU's Eastern Partnership or the Eurasian Economic Union). It will also focus on national security in the countries of the South Caucasus and the protracted conflicts in the region. We aim to have an open debate in order to explore potential new policies and areas of cooperation for external actors in the South Caucasus.

Monday, 12 October

13:30 – 14:00 **Welcome coffee**

14:00 – 14:30 **Opening Remarks**

Natalie Sabanadze, Ambassador of Georgia to Belgium, Luxembourg and Head of the Georgian Mission to the European Union, Brussels

Jos Boonstra, Head of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia programme, FRIDE, Madrid



Keynote speech: The EU's role in supporting democratic development and security

Gunnar Wiegand, Director for Russia, Eastern Partnership, Central Asia, Regional Cooperation and OSCE, European External Action Service, Brussels

14:30 – 16:00 The geo-political divide in the South Caucasus

How do regional and global actors seek to promote their values in the region? These range from US democracy promotion to Russian soft power mechanisms. What are the security objectives of the EU, Russia, Turkey, the US and Iran in the region? Taking into account the war in Ukraine and tensions between the West and Russia, is there any scope for movement on the part of external actors in solving the South Caucasus's protracted conflicts? What sort of cooperation will breathe new life into conflict resolution?

Moderator

Giovanni Grevi, Director, FRIDE, Brussels

Panel

Nigar Göksel, Senior Analyst, International Crisis Group, Istanbul

Neil Melvin, Senior Researcher, SIPRI, Coordinator CASCADE Work Package 7 on conflict, Brussels

Amanda Paul, Senior Policy Analyst, EPC, Brussels

16:00 – 16:30 Coffee break



16:30 – 18:00 External actors and the South Caucasus development trajectory

How do the countries of the South Caucasus seek to strengthen their security with the assistance of external actors? How do they react to the promotion of EU, US, Russian and Turkish values? Does competition between the EU, Russia, Turkey and to a lesser extent the US and Iran limit development in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia? Can they actually benefit from geopolitical friction? What is their reaction to the current rift between the EU/US and Russia and how will this affect their development?

Moderator

Tika Tsertsvadze, International Advocacy Manager,
International Partnership for Human Rights, Brussels

Panel

Leila Alieva, President, Center for National and International
Studies, London

Hrant Kostanyan, Senior Researcher, CEPS, Brussels

Kakha Gogolashvili, Director, Centre of EU Studies at the
Georgian Foundation for Strategic and International Studies,
Tbilisi

18:00 – 18:15 Closing Remarks

Jos Boonstra, FRIDE, Madrid

**Reception hosted by the Georgian Mission to the European
Union**