THE CULTURE OF GOVERNANCE

Conference Programme, June 8, 2012, Tbilisi Georgia

Organisers:
Austrian Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs, www.bmeia.gv.at (Cultural Policy Department)

Prof Dr Melanie Sully, Vice-President of the Institute for Parliamentarism and Democracy Questions, melanie.sully@parlamentarismus.at

Local Co-ordinator
Prof Kornely Kakachia, Associate Professor, Dept of Political Science, Tbilisi State University, Director, Georgian Institute of Politics.

Conference Language: English

This conference continues the successful series started in Odessa, May 2011 and brings together experts, academics, civil society representatives and diplomats from different countries of the European Union and the Black Sea Region (including the Caucasus) to look at the state of play on democratic culture and governance, progress made to date and challenges for faster implementation in the future.
Conference: Friday 8 June 2012

Venue: Tbilisi State University (TSU) 9.00 registration

Welcome

9.15 Alexander Kvitashvili, Rector of Ivane Javakishvili Tbilisi State University

Ambassador Dr Martin Eichtinger, Director General for Cultural Policy, Austrian Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs, Vienna

Professor Dr Melanie Sully, Vice-President, Institute for Parliamentarism and Democracy Questions, Head Go-Governance Initiative, Vienna

Keynote Speakers

9.45 Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Georgia, Tornike Gordadze

Deputy Speaker, Parliament of Georgia, Rusudan Kervalishvili (with translation)

10.15 Coffee

10.45 Panel I Culture of Good Governance, Past, Present and Future

- Director, Austrian Cultural Forum Kiev, Minister Plenipotentiary, Austrian Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs, Dr Jakub Forst-Battaglia “Understanding the culture of the past: a bridge to the future”

- Head EU Delegation, Ambassador, Philip Dimitrov, Tbilisi

- Vice President United Nations Youth and Student Association of Austria, Spokesman Sustainable Future Campaign, deputy Go-Governance Initiative, Vienna Dr Josef Mantl, “The Impact and Future of Social Media”.

Commentator:

- National Democratic Institute, Luis Navarro, Georgia

Discussion

12.00 Light Lunch

12.45 Panel II Good Governance in the Caucasus: state of play
- Professor Political Science Ilia State University, David Danchiashvili, Member of Parliament for the ruling United National Movement (UNM) and Chairman of the Parliamentary Committee on European Integration, “Parliamentary Governance, Georgia and Europe”

- Member of Tbilisi City Council, Republican Party (in Opposition) Tinatin Khidasheli, “Governance and Challenges for the Opposition”

- Associate Dean, Azerbaijan Diplomatic Academy, Baku Anar Valiyev, “The Culture of Local and Regional Governance”

- Chairman of NGO Alliance for Democracy, Yerevan, Armenia George Melikyan, “From Bad Governance to Good Governance”

Commentator and Chair: Kornely Kakachia, Associate Professor, Dept of Political Science, Tbilisi State University, Georgia

Discussion

14.00 Coffee

14.15 Panel III Governance Between “East” and “West”

- Associate Professor, Odessa National University, Director Centre for International Studies, Volodymyr Dubovyk “Good Governance: the Ukraine Experience”

- Assistant Professor Dr Basak Kale Lack, International Relations, Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence, METU University, Ankara, “Turkey: between Asia and Europe?”

- Dr Marcin Walecki, Head ODIHR Democratic Governance and Participation Unit OSCE, Warsaw, ”Political Parties and Democratic Governance”

- Dr Olga Kamenchuk, Director of International and Public Affairs, VCIOM-Russian Public Opinion Research Centre Moscow and Graduate of the Diplomatic Academy Vienna, “What do Russians think of Good Governance- regional variations?”

Moderation: Ambassador of Switzerland to Georgia, Dr Günther Baechler

Discussion

- Reflections on the Conference, International Republican Institute Georgia, Andrea Keerbs, Country Director

Concluding Remarks
Ambassador Michael Postl, Austrian Embassy to Georgia

Conference ends approx 16.00

In the intervals there will be “Information Tables” outside conference hall: eg

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Local Civil Society</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ADA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNDP – Natia Natsvlishvili</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
BREAK – event continues at new venue!

Europe House, 1 Freedom Square,
http://www.europehousegeorgia.org/index_en.php 18.00 -19.00

Book Presentation/Press Conference: English-Georgian-English Translation

Looking at the experience of a culture of governance elsewhere can help countries in the Black Sea Region to think about possibilities for improvement eg in the parliamentary and executive branches. Often critics of young democracies mention that the governing parties still retain a kind of “revolutionary mentality” and operate in opposition mode whilst the parties out of power have no developed culture of a loyal, constructive opposition. Thus political “fighting” (sometimes literally) not Opposition takes place, which can do more to benefit the governing parties. Political opposition is often weak and divided. Rights for opposition parties plus responsibility and checks and balances can create a culture for better governance. The Culture of Governance, sponsored by the Austrian Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs (Cultural Policy Department) and the City of Vienna, edited by Dr Melanie Sully explores these themes and many more in detail.

“The Culture of Governance: the Black Sea”
(Austrian Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs,
International Department, City of Vienna)

Ambassador Dr Martin Eichtinger, Director General for Cultural Policy, Austrian Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs

Editor, Dr Melanie Sully, “The Culture of Governance: the Black Sea” Vice President of the Institute for Parliamentarism and Democracy Questions, Vienna

Jean Vanacker, Strategy, Planning and Performance Officer, EUBAM European Union Border Assistance Mission to Moldova and Ukraine, Odesa, Ukraine
Good Governance in the Black Sea Region: Project Co-Partners

City of Vienna [www.wien.gv.at](http://www.wien.gv.at)
Operational Unit Austrian Development Cooperation, Office of the South Caucasus
City of Tbilisi Mayor’s Office
Tbilisi State University (TSU)
Sustainable Future Campaign, Vienna [www.sustainablefuturecampaign.com](http://www.sustainablefuturecampaign.com)
Go-Governance Initiative Vienna [www.go-governance.com](http://www.go-governance.com)
Black Sea Trust for Regional Co-operation, Tbilisi (German Marshall Fund)
EU Delegation Tbilisi
Europe House, Georgia
Konrad Adenuaer Foundation
National Democratic Institute, Tbilisi
International Republican Institute, Tbilisi
UNDP Tbilisi
OSCE (ODIHR) Democratic Governance Unit Warsaw
Polish-Ukrainian Cooperation Foundation (Pauci), Warsaw
Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence, Centre for European Studies, METU University, Ankara
Istanbul Policy Centre, Sabanci University
Odessa National University, Ukraine
EUBAM, Odessa
Bayerisches Haus, Odessa