

The following motion was unanimously agreed by the Joint Committee on Foreign Affairs and Trade and Defence at its meeting of the 23rd February, 2017.

That the Joint Committee on Foreign Affairs and Trade and Defence:

Welcomes an impressive growth of political relations and cooperation in a variety of fields over the last few years between Ireland and Georgia and expresses hope that bilateral ties will continue to further deepen; the newly opened Georgian Embassy will contribute to this process;

Reaffirms Ireland's unwavering support for Georgia's sovereignty and territorial integrity within its internationally recognized borders;

Welcomes Georgia's progress achieved on its European integration path. Is of the opinion that EU-Georgia Association Agreement/DCFTA represents an important step in the European way of Georgia and its citizens and opens up qualitatively new perspectives in bilateral relations;

Supports further integration of Georgia in the European Union, and emphasizes the need for Georgia to focus on successful implementation of the European Union Association Agreement in the coming years;

Commends the progress achieved by Georgia in implementing the EU-Georgia Visa Liberalization Action Plan, and supports the urgent completion of the visa liberalization between Georgia and the European Union, process that is of most importance for the future European integration of Georgia;

Underlines that Ireland and Georgia should continue close cooperation with the aim to further deepen Georgian-Irish partnership both in bilateral and multilateral formats and work together towards an open Europe of unity and solidarity, to contribute to the global peace and security.

*Deputy Darragh O'Brien, Deputy Brendan Smith, Senator Mark Daly, Deputy Sean Barrett, Deputy Tony McLoughlin, Senator Ivana Bacik, Senator Billy Lawless, Senator Maureen O'Sullivan.*