

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia



Council of Europe



COUNCIL OF EUROPE CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

**Information meeting on the Council of Europe Framework Convention
for the Protection of National Minorities**

14 February 2005

**Location: Hotel Varazi
45 Kostava Street, Tbilisi**

Programme

9:15-9:45 Opening of the meeting

Opening speeches by:

Konstantin Kavtaradze, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia

Mikahail Machavariani, Vice-Speaker of the Parliament of Georgia

Igor Gaon, Special Representative of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe to Georgia

**First session:
Georgia and the Framework Convention for the protection of national minorities**

Chair: Asbjørn Eide, President of the Advisory Committee on the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities, Senior Fellow, Norwegian Institute of Human Rights

9:45-10:15 The protection of national minorities in Georgia: institutional, legal and practical aspects

Elene Tevdoradze, Chairwoman of the Human Rights and Civil Integration Committee, Parliament of Georgia

10:15-10:45 The Framework Convention for the Protection of national minorities, a Council of Europe human rights instrument for ensuring stability and democratic security: general considerations

Boriss Cilevičs, Member of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights, Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly

10:45-11:15 Questions and comments from the floor

11:15-11:30 Coffee break

11:30-12:15 The views of non-governmental organisations

Initial comments by Arnold Stepanian, Public Movement Multinational Georgia followed by the views of other NGOs

12:15-13:00 Discussions

13:00-14:30 Lunch

**Second session:
An overview of the content of the Framework Convention for the protection of
national minorities**

Chair: Gocha Lordkipanidze, Ambassador at Large, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia

14:30-15:45 Overview of the main issues of implementation of the Framework Convention standards in some selected areas (such as non-discrimination and positive measures, education and language, freedom of association and religion, media, participation, cross-border contacts)

Asbjørn Eide, President of the Advisory Committee on the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities, Senior Fellow, Norwegian Institute of Human Rights

15:45-16:15 Comments from the floor and discussion

16:15-16:30 Coffee break

16:30-17:00 Steps towards the ratification of the Framework Convention
Maka Lashkia, Human Rights and Civil Integration Committee, Parliament of Georgia and comments from the Ministry of Justice

17:00-17:15 Introduction to the Framework Convention monitoring
Stéphanie Marsal, Secretariat of the Framework Convention, Council of Europe

17:15-17:45 Comments from the floor and discussion

17:45-18:00 Conclusion of the meeting

Gocha Lordkipanidze
Ambassador at Large, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia

Ketevan Tsikhelashvili, Office of the State Minister in Conflict Resolution

Asbjørn Eide, President of the Advisory Committee on the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities