



## Project News

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20/03/2014

### **Expert meeting on immigration detention took place in Chisinau**

Over forty experts from EU member states, Eastern Partnership countries, international organizations, civil society and academia came together to compare their views, best practices and challenges in the field of immigration detention. The two-day expert workshop on detention took place in Chisinau on 26-27 March, under the Eastern Partnership Panel on Migration and Asylum and was co-hosted by the Republic of Moldova and Sweden.

*For further information, please follow [this link](#)*

## Highlights: Country News

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19/03/2014

### **Armenian government approves procedure for irregular migrants' return from EU**

Armenian government approved the procedure for receiving requests for the return of irregular migrants from the European Union. This procedure of addressing applications is based on EU-Armenia agreement on readmission.

*For further information, please follow [this link](#)*

28/02/2014

### **Azerbaijan – EU readmission agreement signed**

Azerbaijan and the European Union signed an agreement on readmission. The document which concerns people who do not have permission to stay or reside in the territory of the EU countries will facilitate visa procedures for Azerbaijan, Azerbaijani Deputy Foreign Minister Mahmud Mammadgulyev said.

*For further information, please follow [this link](#)*



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04/02/2014

### **Azerbaijani parliament ratifies visa facilitation agreement with EU**

The Azerbaijani parliament ratified a visa facilitation agreement between Azerbaijan and EU. The agreement was signed during the EU summit in Vilnius in November 2013. The document is awaiting ratification by the European Parliament.

*For further information, please follow [this link](#)*

01/02/2014

### **Azerbaijan agrees with international business' critics about its migration policy**

Azerbaijan has admitted the relevance of the international business' critics about its national migration policy. Earlier, the members of the American Chamber of Commerce in Azerbaijan named the country's adopted Migration Code as "discriminative" and "leading to the liquidation of the free labour market". Later the legislation was amended.

*For further information, please follow [this link](#)*

03/03/2014

### **Revision for Belarus-EU relations suggested**

Belarus and the European Union should revise approaches in their relations and determine their strategy, Belarusian Foreign Minister Vladimir Makei stated.

*For further information, please follow [this link](#)*

04/02/2014

### **Over 5,700 people leave Belarus for overseas employment in 2013**

An estimated, 5,715 people left Belarus last year to work abroad, 4,916 of them went to the Russian Federation. The data is based on contracts submitted to the Belarusian authorities, Deputy Head of the Department on Citizenship and Migration of the Interior Ministry of Belarus Alexander Tatura told.

*For further information, please follow [this link](#)*

17/02/2014

### **Georgia, Azerbaijan to intensify works on border demarcation**

Georgia and Azerbaijan seek to intensify the works on border demarcation, Georgian President Giorgi Margvelashvili stated. He said the agreement on intensification of this process was reached during his recent visit to Azerbaijan.

*For further information, please follow [this link](#)*



18/03/2014

## **Poland will support Georgia's inclusion in European asylum seekers network as observer**

Georgia's Refugees and Resettlement Minister David Darakhvelidze met with the head of Poland's Office for Foreigners, Rafal Rogala as part of his visit to Warsaw. The parties discussed the future cooperation in the sphere of providing asylum, the Georgian ministry said. The representatives of the Office for Foreigners gave presentations on the integration of foreigners, determination of refugee status, reintegration of the citizens returned from exile, social care and legalization of foreigners in Poland.

*For further information, please follow [this link](#)*

04/02/2014

## **Van Rompuy: EU and Georgia aim at signing Association Agreement this year**

One of the key goals of the strong EU-Georgia partnership is to sign this year the Association Agreement, including the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area, the President of the European Council Herman Van Rompuy stated following a meeting in Brussels with the Georgian Prime Minister Irakli Gharibashvili.

*For further information, please follow [this link](#)*

10/01/2014

## **Georgia forms state border control body**

A Special Interagency Council has been created in Georgia to develop the state border control strategy. Prime Minister Irakli Garibashvili has signed a corresponding decree. The council was tasked to draft the state border control strategy for Georgia and submit it to the government by March 1.

*For further information, please follow [this link](#)*

26/03/2014

## **Foreigners to be able to get e-visa to enter Moldova**

The government of Moldova approved a draft amending and completing the laws on issuing electronic entry visas for foreigners. Therefore, the Moldovan visa will be obtained more easily: applicants will no longer have to go to Moldova's diplomatic missions, but will have a possibility to apply on-line.

*For further information, please follow [this link](#)*

14/03/2014

## **Moldovans granted visa-free travel across Schengen area**

Moldovan citizens holding biometric passports will be able to travel to and throughout the Schengen area without a visa, following endorsement by the Council of the European Union of the respective amended regulation (No 539/2001). The new regime is expected to enter into force in early May this year and Moldova is the first Eastern Partnership country to meet all the requirements for visa-free travel laid down in the Visa Liberalisation Action Plan.



For further information, please follow [this link](#)

21/03/2014

## **Ukraine, EU sign political part of Association Agreement**

Ukraine and the European Union have signed the political chapter of their Association Agreement. The signing ceremony, which was attended by all the heads of state and government of the EU member states, as well as the presidents of the European Council and the European Commission, and Ukrainian Prime Minister Arsenii Yatseniuk, took place in Brussels.

For further information, please follow [this link](#)

24/01/2014

## **Belarus, Ukraine discuss boundary demarcation projects**

The joint Belarusian-Ukrainian demarcation commission held their 3rd meeting in the Foreign Ministry of Belarus and discussed a number of projects regarding the boundary demarcation guideline documents. The commission finalized the draft intergovernmental agreement on the approval of the provisions regarding the demarcation of the state border between Belarus and Ukraine. The parties also coordinated and approved the action plan for 2014.

For further information, please follow [this link](#)

# Highlights: EU Spotlight

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27/03/2014

## **EU – Azerbaijan: 2013 a decisive EU year in relations, but little progress on human rights**

2013 was a decisive year in EU-Azerbaijani bilateral relations, according to a progress report released by the European Commission as part of the 2014 ENP package. Azerbaijan's participation in the Eastern Partnership Summit in Vilnius, which coincided with the signing of the Visa Facilitation Agreement and the Mobility Partnership, underlined the potential to further develop EU-Azerbaijani relations.

For further information, please follow [this link](#)

27/03/2014

## **Armenia: progress report says EU committed to cooperation despite failure to initial Association Agreement**

Last year saw intensive political dialogue between the EU and the Armenian Government, according to the European Commission's ENP progress report on Armenia. Negotiations on an Association Agreement, including a Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area, were completed in July 2013, but they could not proceed with its initialing, following Armenia's decision to apply for membership in the Customs Union with Russia, Belarus and Kazakhstan. "Armenia and the EU remained nevertheless committed to further cooperation as they jointly stated in the margins of the Vilnius Summit," the report says.



For further information, please follow [this link](#)

27/03/2014

## **EU – Belarus: a policy of critical engagement in the face of human rights concerns**

The EU remains committed to a policy of critical engagement towards Belarus, according to a memo released by the European Commission as part of the 2014 ENP package. The assessment underlines support to civil society and the population at large but expresses serious concern at the human rights situation in Belarus.

For further information, please follow [this link](#)

27/03/2014

## **EU – Georgia: an intensive year of dialogue that culminated in initialing of Association Agreement**

Political dialogue between the EU and the Georgian Government was intensive in 2013, according to a progress report released by the European Commission as part of the 2014 ENP package. The year saw the EU and Georgia complete negotiation of an Association Agreement, including Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area, in July, and the Association Agreement was initialed in November at the Eastern Partnership Summit in Vilnius.

For further information, please follow [this link](#)

27/03/2014

## **Moldova: EU notes significant efforts and progress leading to initialing of Association Agreement**

Despite the political crisis that hit Moldova in the first half of last year, the election of a new government in May 2013 allowed the EU-Moldova political dialogue to resume, leading to the initialing of the EU-Moldova Association Agreement (including DCFTA) in November, according to a progress report released by the European Commission as part of the 2014 European Neighborhood Policy package.

For further information, please follow [this link](#)

27/03/2014

## **Ukraine: ENP progress report highlights dramatic chain of events**

The European Commission's 2013 progress report on Ukraine highlights the dramatic chain of events sparked by the decision in November to suspend preparations for signing the Association Agreement, which led to massive protests in favor of closer ties with the EU, culminating in the dismissal of President Yanukovich and the appointment of a new government. The report says that in 2013 Ukraine partly addressed some of the recommendations of the last progress report, in particular those relating to electoral law and practice and the judiciary, but media freedom worsened and the perception of corruption remained high. Looking ahead to the sustained implementation of the Association Agenda in 2014, the report makes a number of recommendations including investigation



into acts of violence that took place during the recent protests, further electoral, judicial and police reforms, and stepping up the fight against corruption.

*For further information, please follow [this link](#)*

24/03/2014

## **New European Neighborhood Instrument comes into force with €15.4 billion for 2014-2020**

The new European Neighborhood Instrument (ENI) has come into force with a budget of €15.4 billion for the period 2014-2020, after it was published in the Official Journal on 15 March, together with five other external action funding instruments.

*For further information, please follow [this link](#)*

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