

## PRESS-ANNOUNCEMENT

### Azerbaijan and Georgia Agree Priorities for Territorial Cooperation

*Tbilisi, October 27, 2014 – priorities and common challenges of the territorial cooperation of border regions of Azerbaijan and Georgia are the focus of the Inaugural Joint Decision Making Committee meeting in Tbilisi on the 31<sup>st</sup> of October 2014. The meeting will take place in Marriott Courtyard Hotel, 4, Freedom Square, Tbilisi, Georgia.*

The representative of central and local state authorities, civil society organisations and their networks from Azerbaijan and Georgia will gather together to discuss and endorse the Joint Operational Programme (JOP) that will set up a basic framework for Azerbaijan-Georgia Territorial Cooperation Grant Programme. The priorities, requirements to projects and beneficiaries, programme implementation modalities are the key elements of the JOP. The participants will consider the results of public discussion of the Joint Operational Programme held in eligible regions of Azerbaijan and Georgia and adopt this programming document for launching Call for Proposals. The budget of the programme constitutes 1.35 million EUR. The programme covers Ganja-Gazakh and Sheki-Zaqatala regions of Azerbaijan and Kvemo Kartli and Kakheti regions of Georgia.

The Joint Decision Making Committee that plays a vital role for the Azerbaijan-Georgia Territorial Cooperation Programme implementation will be formally established. The Co-Chairmen of the JDMC meeting are Mr. **Rulsan Rustamli**, Head of Department for Cooperation with International Organizations of the Ministry of Economy and Industry of the Azerbaijan Republic and Mr. **Tengiz Shergelashvili**, Deputy Minister of Regional Development and Infrastructure of Georgia.

The Inaugural Joint Decision Making Committee meeting is organised by the EaPTC Managing Authority South in cooperation with the EaPTC Support Programme.

*Background:* the Eastern Partnership Territorial Cooperation Support Programme (EaPTC Support Programme) was launched with the aim to create a favourable environment for territorial cooperation programmes along the borders Moldova – Ukraine, Armenia – Georgia, Azerbaijan – Georgia and Belarus – Ukraine with due regard to specifics of each border area, as well as to strengthen the capacity of local and regional state and non-state actors to jointly develop and implement cross-border projects. The overall EU contribution to EaPTC is 12.5 million EUR. The Eastern Partnership (EaP) is a European Union initiative directed at six countries of Eastern Europe and the South Caucasus: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine. The initiative aims at closer relations between the EU and the Eastern partners, deepening their political co-operation and economic integration.

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The Programme is funded by the European Union

The European Commission is the EU's executive body.

The European Union is made up of 28 Member States who have decided to gradually link together their know-how, resources and destinies. Together, during a period of enlargement of 50 years, they have built a zone of stability, democracy and sustainable development whilst maintaining cultural diversity, tolerance and individual freedoms. The European Union is committed to sharing its achievements and its values with countries and peoples beyond its borders.