

Your Excellency,

I welcome the fact that the draft is being broadly discussed in the Georgian Parliament and society and I hope that all voices will be heard. There is no doubt that the Georgian Public Broadcaster is the main actor in the broadcast media field. Therefore, it is of vital importance that it remains fully operational and strong during the period of transformation as stipulated by the proposed amendments.

A possible solution would be, as mentioned by Eliso Chapidze, the author of the amendments, during current discussions, instead of immediately disbanding the Board, to look for possible options that may be brought into effect from 2014 or when the half of the board members' terms expire.

While I support the positive amendments foreseen in the law, I sincerely hope that the concerns expressed in the analysis of Professor Nyman Metcalf regarding the lack of transitional provisions in the amendments will be taken seriously and such provisions will be added to the draft before its adoption, in order to ensure the uninterrupted work of the GPB and its Board of Trustees.

Let me once again thank you for your co-operation in this important matter.