

**EUROPEAN UNION**

DELEGATION TO GEORGIA

The Ambassador

Tbilisi, 2017  
JH/vr ARES (2017)

**Subject: Sector Reform Contract "Employment and Vocational Education and Training (VET) programme" (ENPI/2013/025001), disbursement of the fourth and last instalment**

**Ref: Your request MES 2 17 00333330, dated 06.04.2017**

*Dear Minister,*

I am pleased to inform you that the European Commission's Directorate General for European Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations (DG NEAR) has authorized the disbursement of €8,750,000: €7,000,000 out of a possible maximum amount of €7,500,000 foreseen for the 4<sup>th</sup> instalment and full disbursement of the outstanding amount of the third instalment €1,750,000 of the Sector Reform Contract "Employment and Vocational Education and Training (VET) programme" (EVET) programme.

According to our overall assessment, the implementation of the EVET programme is satisfactory as a whole. There has been good progress demonstrated by line Ministries in developing the labour market information system and towards the introduction of a new service model for the employment support services. Further, the quality and relevance of VET system to the labour market needs to be improved and the efficiency of transition from training to employment, increased.

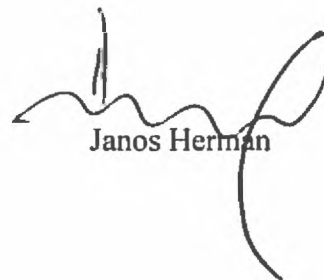
However, condition 3.3 "Enhanced social partnership" is deemed not to be met. Participation of social partners, especially at micro level (e.g. College Supervisory Boards), is often nominal and does not necessarily follow the principles of social dialogue and consensus. The active involvement of social partners in the whole policy cycle (from strategy formation through planning, implementation, monitoring and review to reformulation) is limited. Social partners are disillusioned as effective policy dialogue in the National VET Council does not take place. Finally, given the absence of any implementation report on the revised Framework for Social Partnership, there is no evidence of "systemic participation" of social partners in the VET policy cycle and the corresponding decision-making process. Therefore, €500,000 will be deducted from the total amount of €9,250,000 requested.

Dr David Sergeenko  
Minister of Labour, Health and Social Affairs  
Tbilisi, Georgia

We recommend further upgrading the National VET Council, making it more participatory and inclusion of social partners at all levels into real decision-making in the whole VET policy cycle.

The payment will be transferred to Georgia's State Treasury in the coming days. As usual, the arrival of the disbursement to the treasury account should be confirmed and certified by the Georgian side, through the National Bank. The confirmation should include information on the exchange rate used for the conversion into the local currency. Please note that appropriate publicity of this action needs to be ensured. We would be pleased if you could disseminate this letter to the other ministries and agencies involved in this programme.

Yours sincerely, *as ever,*



Janos Herman

Cc.:

Ms Ketevan Natriashvili  
First Deputy Minister of Education and Science  
Tbilisi, Georgia