

**INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS DEPARTMENT
OF THE MINISTRY OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS**



**INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
DEPARTMENT**

REPORT 2017|2019



The European Union
for Georgia

EU4Justice

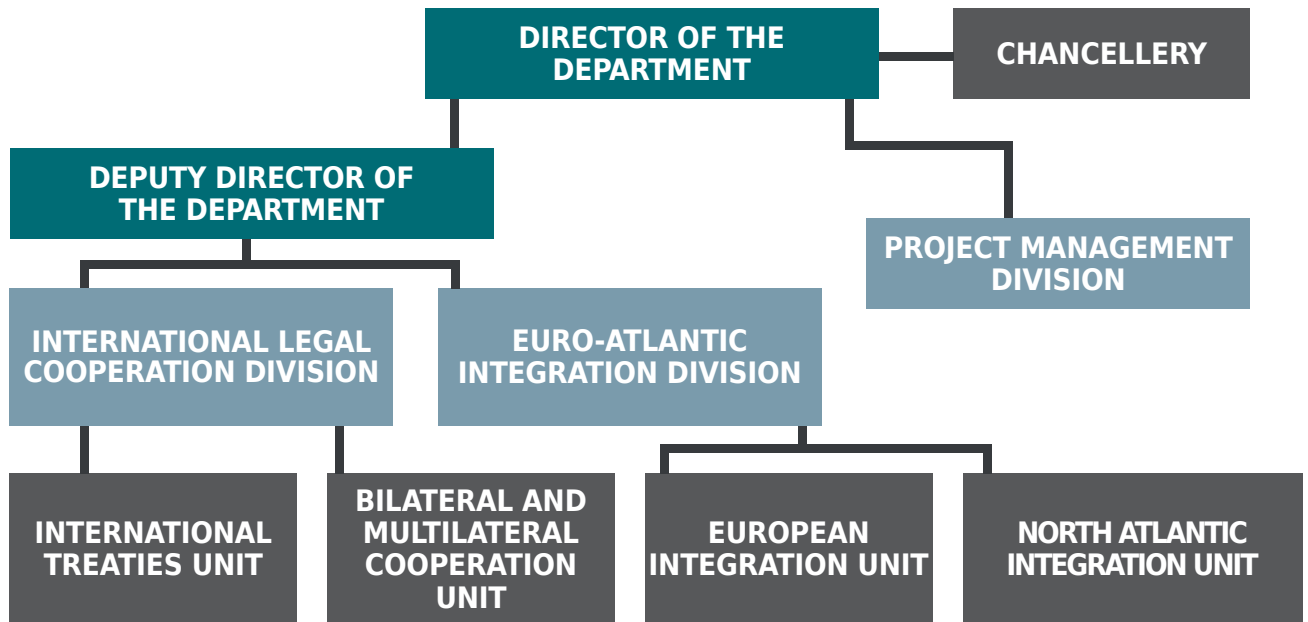


INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS DEPARTMENT

The Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia, in cooperation with other relevant agencies, is one of the key bodies responsible for international relations in order to ensure public order and security. The MIA International Relations Department is in charge of conducting and coordinating international partnerships and projects, which are implemented in line with the foreign policy priorities and the interests of the country within the competences of the Ministry. The objective of the Department is to develop and deepen international relations, in its various capacities, as well as to facilitate the activities of the structural subdivisions within the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

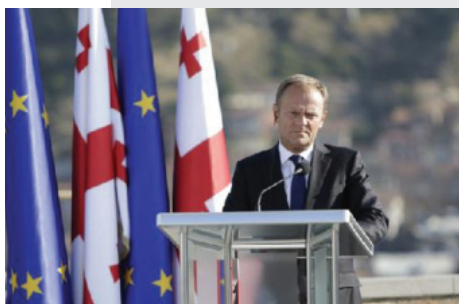
The International Relations Department aims to develop and strengthen bilateral, regional, and multilateral cooperation with partner countries and organisations by improving the bilateral international legal framework, coordinating European and Euro-Atlantic integration, collaborating with donor countries and international organisations, and managing projects and international reporting. With the aim of institutional development department is oriented on implementing international best practices.

STRUCTURE OF THE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS DEPARTMENT



EUROPEAN INTEGRATION

2017 was a landmark year on the path to Georgia's European integration. In particular, on 28 March, visa free travel to EU/Schengen countries for the citizens of Georgia came into force.



“Today is a historic day for all of us and especially for the Georgian people who from now on will be able to travel freely into the Schengen area. It is an important step to build an even closer EU-Georgia relationship”.

Donald Tusk, President of the European Council

The Ministry of Internal Affairs played an important role in the implementation of necessary measures to obtain the visa free regime, and within its competences, continues to address the challenges of visa free travel.

With the aim of successful implementation of visa free travel to EU/Schengen states and through close cooperation with the European partners, a number of measures were undertaken in the following directions:



- Integrated border management;
- Fight against irregular migration/implementation of the readmission agreement;
- Fight against organized crime;
- Strengthening international law enforcement cooperation.

2018 was a significant year for the Ministry in terms of intensifying cooperation with the EU Member States that were most affected by the abuse of visa-free travel by Georgian citizens. Accordingly, multiple high-level, as well as expert-level, meetings were held in Sweden, Germany, France and Austria. A country specific approach to each Member State served the purpose of eradicating potential risks of visa suspension.

The Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia, in cooperation with the EU institutions, is involved in the implementation of Operational Actions elaborated by the European Commission, which aim at eliminating challenges of visa-free travel of Georgian citizens to the countries of the EU/Schengen Area.

In order to identify challenges and future steps related to visa-free travel to the EU/Schengen Area, within the competencies of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and with the initiative of International Relations Department, regular meetings are being held with Police Attachés and Immigration Liaison Officers of the EU Member States. The meetings chaired by the Deputy Minister represent an effective mechanism for coordination of the issues related to visa-free regime and exchange of information with the EU MSs.



Reports of the European Commission under the Visa Suspension Mechanism published in 2017-2018 positively assesses the following measures undertaken by the Ministry of Internal Affairs:

- Effective implementation of the readmission agreement;
- Operational cooperation of Georgia with the EU Member States;
- Progress achieved in the fight against organized crime both in Georgia and on international level;
- Role of police attachés deployed in the EU Member States in law enforcement cooperation;
- Agreements on law enforcement cooperation signed between Georgia and the EU Member States.



On 21 November 2018, the first high-level meeting between the European Commission and the Government of Georgia was held in Brussels. Parties agreed to further deepen existing cooperation in the **fight against crime** as well as in the area of **civil protection**. Together with other members of the government, the Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs represented the Georgian delegation.

On 12 July 2019, within the framework of Batumi International Conference, the Deputy Minister outlined the significance of visa free travel during the session on “Investing in Future: Empowering Young Generation through Education and Mobility”.

The EU-Georgia Association Agreement and the Association Agenda

In order to implement the obligations envisaged by the Association Agreement, the International Relations Department coordinated elaboration of National Action Plans for 2017-2019, the MIA implemented **up to 100 activities**, including:

- **Strengthening international cooperation** in the fight against organized crime;
- **Implementation of the EU-Georgia work plan** in the field of **Common Security Defence Policy (CSDP)**;
- Deepening cooperation in the area of **border management**;
- Capacity development in the field of **Human Rights Protection**;
- **Signature of the Administrative Agreement** between the Emergency Management Agency and the Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations of the European Commission on 13 July 2018.

In 2018, for the first time, the resolution of the European Parliament assessed the progress achieved by Georgia in the implementation process of the Association Agreement during 2014-2018. The resolution positively reflected the following activities:

- **Strengthening of the rehabilitation of border sectors** with Turkey and Azerbaijan;
- Implementation of the **national strategy for Combating Organized Crime**;
- Effective cooperation with the EU in the area of **fight against organized crime**.



EU Integration Roadmap - RoadMap2EU

In 2018, the Government of Georgia elaborated new policy document “EU Integration Roadmap - RoadMap2EU”, which aims at ensuring further enhancement of Georgia’s political association and economic integration with the EU. The Ministry of Internal Affairs is actively involved in the implementation of the Roadmap.

Cooperation with Europol

In 2010, the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia expressed its readiness to become a strategic partner of Europol. The extensive efforts led to the signing of the instruments in 2017-2018 that were necessary for the development of partnership with Europol:



- The **Agreement on Operational and Strategic Cooperation between Georgia and the European Police Office**, through which Georgia **officially became a strategic and an operational partner of Europol**;
- **Memorandum of Understanding on Secure Communication Line** between Georgia and European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation;
- **Liaison Agreement** between Georgia and the European Union Cooperation Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation.



On 1 September 2018 **Georgia deployed its first Liaison Officer to the Headquarters (HQ) of Europol** in the Hague.

In April 2019, Europol's secure communication channel (SIENA) was enforced. Furthermore, in April 2019 Georgia became a member of the Europol's analytical projects: 'Eastern European Organised Crime - EEOC' and 'Furtum'.

In 2017-2019, the representatives of the Ministry of Internal Affairs participated in 13 thematic/panel meetings organized within the framework of the **Eastern Partnership**.



In 2017, meetings were held on following topics:

- Migration management and asylum (2 meetings);
- Integrated border management;
- Common Security Defence Policy (CSDP) (2 meetings);
- Civil protection.

In 2018, meetings were held on following topics:

- Governance and public administration reform;
- Migration, mobility, and integrated border management (2 meetings);
- Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) and civil protection.

In 2019, meetings were held on following topics:

- Migration, mobility, and integrated border management;
- Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) and civil protection (2 meetings).

10th anniversary of Eastern Partnership – EaP was celebrated in 2019. The Ministry is actively involved in the elaboration of new initiatives within the framework of on-going consultations on further development of EaP post 2020.

Cooperation with European Border and Coast Guard Agency (FRONTEX)



- To deepen **cooperation with FRONTEX**, negotiations on **the text of the new working arrangement** were carried out in 2017-2018. Upon completion of the internal procedures within the European Union, the renewed arrangement will be signed. The new working arrangement entails the development of an information exchange mechanism through joint risk analysis. Furthermore, Georgia will actively participate in joint operations and return operations;
- In 2018, the **Academy of the MIA became an associated member of FRONTEX Partnership Academy Network (Partnership Academy)** which will further deepen cooperation with the educational institutions of the EU Member States. Cooperation also entails joint activities (studies, exchange programs, research, etc.) that will support interoperability of the curriculum of the academy with the educational programs of the EU Member States;
- Since 2019, the Ministry of Internal Affairs contributes to the **FRONTEX Air Borders Pulsar Data Collection (FRONTEX Pulsar Data)**. Through the Pulsar Data system, information is aggregated from more than 100 airports of the EU/Schengen states as well as from neighbouring countries, in accordance with the range of specific indicators linked to irregular migration.

NORTH ATLANTIC INTEGRATION

The International Relations Department coordinates the implementation of the obligations undertaken through the following mechanisms of cooperation with NATO:

- **Annual National Programme (ANP);**
- **Planning and Review Process (PARP);**
- **Substantial NATO - Georgia Package (SNGP).**

The Department coordinates the due fulfillment of MIA's responsibilities in the process of NATO integration. Security in the Black Sea region bears utmost importance for the further enhancement of cooperation with Euro-Atlantic structures. Accordingly, maritime security is one of the main components of NATO-Georgia cooperation. At the Warsaw Summit in 2016, the Alliance decided to strengthen the military presence on its eastern and south-eastern borders. In 2018, at the Brussels Summit and during the Meeting of Defence Ministers, NATO Allies underlined the necessity of enhancing practical cooperation with Georgia in the context of Black Sea security.



“Black Sea security is a priority for NATO and for Georgia. We are working together here more closely than ever before: with training for Georgian Coast Guard boarding teams; more cooperation between Georgian and NATO naval forces; and with cooperation between Georgia's Joint Maritime Operations Centre and the NATO's Maritime Command (MARCOM).”

Jens Stoltenberg, 2018, meeting of the NATO-Georgia Commission (NGC) in Defence Ministers' session.



Deriving from the dominant role of the MIA in the area of the Black Sea security, the Minister and the Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs of Georgia held official meetings with the **Deputy Secretary General Rose Gottemoeller**, Deputy Commander of Allied Maritime Command **Vice Admiral Hervé Bléjean**, and Deputy Assistant Secretary General for Defence Policy and Planning **Jonathan Parish**.

2019 was exceptional by number of high-level visits of the NATO representatives to Georgia: official meetings were held with the **Secretary General of NATO, Jens Stoltenberg**, the Commander of United States Naval Forces Europe - Naval Forces Africa and Commander of Allied Joint Force Command Naples, **Adm. James G. Foggo III** and the Deputy Assistant Secretary General for Defence Policy and Planning, **Jonathan Parish**.



The fifth visit of the **North Atlantic Council - NAC to Georgia**, which was held in **Batumi for the first time**, is a clear evidence of enhanced cooperation between Georgia and the Alliance on the Black Sea Region and Maritime Security. During the visit, the Deputy Secretary of NATO, Rose Gottemoeller and members of the delegation paid visit to the vessels of the Georgian Coast Guard and met with the GCG Boarding Teams. NATO positively assessed accomplishments of the GCG and once again

emphasised importance of the enhanced cooperation on the Black Sea security.

The Ministry of Internal Affairs is actively involved in the process of peace and security in the Black Sea region:

- Since 2017, the frequency of **port visits by a Standing NATO Maritime Group to Georgian territorial waters** have increased;
- Since 2017, **Joint Maritime Operations Center (JMOC) in Supsa** has been exchanging information on maritime operations with **NATO Shipping Centre**;
- On 24 November 2017, the **tactical memorandum on Georgia's participation in the operation Sea Guardian** was signed between the MIA Border Police and the **NATO Allied Maritime Command (MARCOM)**. Within the framework of the Memorandum, the Ministry of Internal Affairs has deployed **the new Liaison Officer** to the MARCOM;
- **Two Visit, Board, Search and Seizure (VBSS) teams** of the Coast Guard Department of the Border Police are involved in the process of **Operations Capabilities Concept Evaluation and Feedback Programme (OCC E&F)**;
- Since 2019, NATO experts have been assessing the **Harbour Protection** in Georgia.



The USA Government handed over two “Island” class patrol boats “Dioskuria” and “Ochamchire” to the Coast Guard Department of the MIA Border Police of Georgia.

In 2019, the MIA declared these Vessels to NATO Pool of Forces. After successful completion of the certification process, vessels will be granted with status of the NATO Response Forces (NRF).



In April 2019, **the MIA deployed the first Liaison Officer to the headquarters of NATO**, who will ensure increased communication and cooperation with the respective NATO institutions, as well as effective exchange of information in a timely manner. Moreover, deployment of the Liaison Officer is another clear affirmation of successful cooperation with the Alliance.

The Department actively collaborates with local and international programmes of NATO. **The NATO-Georgia Professional Development Programme (PDP)** takes an important part in the process of building the capacities of the MIA employees. In 2018, under the coordination of the International Relations Department and in cooperation with PDP, the Ministry launched an elaboration of the Strategy on Critical Infrastructure. Furthermore, with the support of PDP Ministry has launched elaboration of Strategy on Internal Communications and its respective action plan.

DONOR COORDINATION AND PROJECT MANAGEMENT

In order to raise donor funds, the International Relations Department intensively cooperates with partner organisations and countries. This assistance is aimed at supporting ongoing and planned reforms and institutional development of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia.

In order to raise donor funds, the following activities are being implemented:

- Assessment of the Ministry's needs;
- Drafting project proposals;
- Organizing annual donor coordination conference;
- Coordinating bilateral thematic meetings with donor organisation and partner countries.

In 2017-2019, number of important programs and projects were implemented in cooperation with donor organisations and partner countries:

Implemented projects:

- Improving Mental Health Care of Persons Detained in Georgia II (EU) (2016 - 2017) **800 000 EUR;**
- Improvement of Coordination of Land Border Protection between Georgia and Azerbaijan (EU) (2014-2017) **5 360 000 EUR;**
- Reinforcing the capabilities of the Government of Georgia in Border and Migration Management (EU) (2013-2017) **4 800 000 EUR;**
- Enhancing Georgian Migration Management (ENIGMA) (EU) (2013-2017) **4 800 000 EUR;**
- Eastern partnership police cooperation programme (EU) (2014-2017) **5 000 000 EUR;**
- Capacity Building of Eastern Partnership Countries in Integrated Border Management (EU) (2014-2018) **4 500 000 EUR;**
- Supporting Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia to Fight Domestic Violence (EU) (2016-2018) **300 000 EUR;**

- Equipping the Georgian-Turkish State Border (EU) (2016-2017) **3 200 000 EUR;**
- Cybercrime@EAP II (EU) (2015-2017) **800 000 EUR;**
- Cybercrime@EAP III (EU) (2015-2017) **1 200 000 EUR;**
- Capacity Building of Georgian Border Police (US) (2015-2017) **10 000 000 USD;**
- K9 (US, EU 2016-2017) **1.500.000 GEL.**

Important Projects Initiated in 2018

Technical Assistance Project to Support the Fight
against Organised Crime in Georgia
Funded by EU
Budget: 2 million EUR
2018-2021

Building Trust and Confidence between Police and
Society Funded by the Dutch government
Budget: 100 000 EUR
2018-2019

Fighting Discrimination, Hate Crime and Hate Speech
in Georgia, Funded by EU
Budget: 2 million EUR
2018-2021

Ongoing Projects:

- Support to the Development of the Criminal Policy, Prosecution and Investigation - Georgia (EU) (2016-2020) **2 250 000 EUR**;
- Sustaining Border Management and Migration Governance in Georgia - SBMMG (EU) (2017-2020) **4 000 000 EUR**;
- Enhancing Georgian Migration Management ENIGMMA II (EU) (2017-2020) **4 000 000 EUR**;
- Technical Assistance to Support the Fight Against Organised Crime in Georgia (EU) (2018-2021) **2 000 000 EUR**;
- Fighting Discrimination, Hate Crime and Hate Speech in Georgia (EU) (2018-2021) **2 000 000 EUR**;
- Improving Mental Health Care of Persons Detained in Georgia (EU) (2018-2019) **500 000 EUR**;
- European Union Action Against Drugs and Organized Crime (EU-ACT) (EU) (2017-2020) **12 000 000 EUR**;
- Schools, Community and Police Engagement [SCOPE] (US) (2018-2019) **500 000 USD**;
- Building Trust and Confidence between Police and Society (GCSD/ Netherlands, 2018-2019) **100 000 EUR**;
- Community-Oriented Policing and Drug-related crime harm reduction (SOROS) (EMC/OSF, 2019) - TBC **54 000 USD**;
- K9 Capacity Development Project (US, 2018-2019) **150 000 EUR**;
- Capacity Development of Georgian Border Police. (US) (2017-2019) **10 000 000 USD**;
- Adjara Community Policing Initiative (ACPI) **105 000 USD**;
- Fight against Trafficking (US) (2019) **500 000 USD**;
- Juvenile and Adult Detainees Support (Jades) (CoE) (2019) **600 000 EUR**;
- Action on Cybercrime for Cyber Resilience in the Eastern Partnership region (CyberEast) **4 200 000 EUR**;

The overall budget of ongoing projects and raised financial assistance in 2017-2018 equals¹:

- **31 800 000 EUR**
- **11 159 000 USD**

Projects implemented in 2017-2019 covered the following fields:

- Investigation Reform;
- Human Rights Protection;
- Border and Migration Management;
- Fight Against Organised Crime;
- Cyber Crime etc.

Projects and programs include following types of support:

- Technical Assistance;
- Infrastructural Development;
- Capacity Building of Law-enforcement employees.

Technological and Infrastructural Components implemented in 2017- 2019:

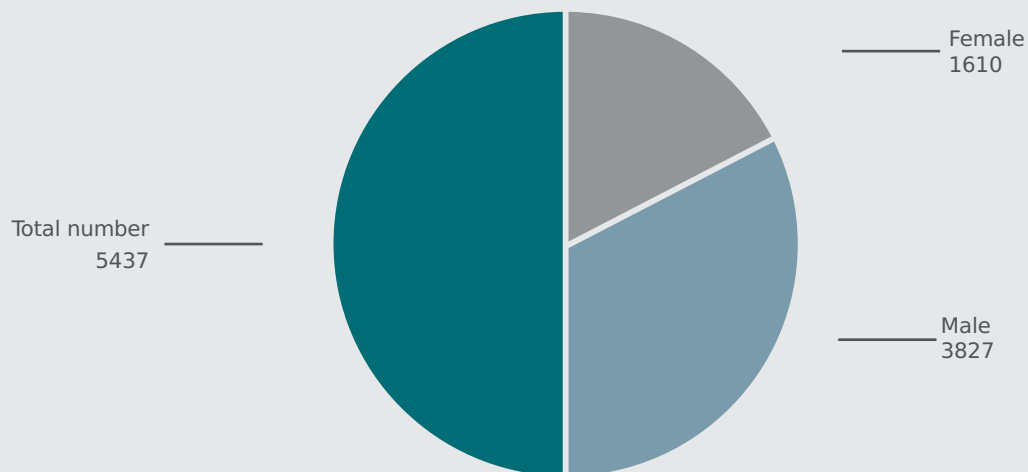
- Renovation of the infrastructure of nine border sectors;
- Installation of video surveillance systems on four border sectors;
- Procurement of the Land Border Protection-Communication System and means;
- Development of drug-related crime expertise (Gas Chromatography);
- Development of the software for combatting cybercrime;
- Support to police activities (540 tablet computers);
- Donation of new Mobile radars for road safety;
- Development of the K9 service;
- Mobile detectors and relevant equipment for radiation threat detection.
- Equipment for document inspection.

1 This amount is the total budget of the ongoing projects and does not represent the assistance attracted only for Ministry of Internal Affairs.

Capacity Building of Law-enforcement employees

By the support of International Relations Department in **2017-2019** total number of **5 437 law-enforcement officers** (Female: 1 610; Male: 3 827) were trained/ retrained with the support of partner countries and organisations in different thematic directions.

Number of trained law enforcement officers 2017-2019



Capacity development activities of law enforcement officers were conducted in the following areas:

- Human Rights;
- Rights of Children;
- Domestic Violence;
- Investigation Techniques;
- Gender-related topics;
- Trafficking in Human Beings (Trafficking);
- Crime prevention;
- Integrated Border Management;
- Effective Migration Management;
- Forensics;
- Fight Against Organised Crime;
- Fight Against Cyber Crime;
- Fight Against Drug-related crimes;
- Road Safety;
- Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Safety;
- Crowd Management;
- Human Resources Management etc.

DEVELOPMENT OF INTERNATIONAL LEGAL COOPERATION

Conclusion of International Agreements and Cooperation Memoranda

The years of 2017-2019 were important for the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia in terms of improving international legal basis. During this period, the Ministry has concluded 29 international documents.

The Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia, within its competence, concludes the international agreements and cooperation memoranda in the following five main directions:

- Cooperation in the fight against crime/cooperation in the field of law enforcement;
- Cooperation in the field of management of emergency situations;
- Cooperation in the field of readmission of persons residing without authorization;
- Border Cooperation;
- Mutual recognition of driving licenses.

International Agreements/Memoranda 2017



Protocol on intentions deriving from the results achieved within the working group of the leadership of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia and the Investigative Committee of the Republic of Belarus



Agreement between the Government of Georgia and the Government of the Hellenic Republic on cooperation in the fight against crime



Agreement between the Government of Georgia and the Government of the Kingdom of Sweden on law enforcement cooperation



Joint Declaration between the Minister of Internal Affairs of Georgia and the Minister of the Interior of the Republic of Estonia concerning cooperation in the field of European aspirations



Protocol between the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia and the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Latvia amending the December 8, 2009 Agreement on Border Cooperation between the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia and the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Latvia;
Joint Declaration between the Minister of Internal Affairs of Georgia and the Minister of the Interior of the Republic of Latvia concerning cooperation in the field of European aspirations



Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia and the Police Department under the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Lithuania;
Joint Declaration between the Minister of Internal Affairs of Georgia and the Minister of the Interior of the Republic of Lithuania concerning cooperation in the field of European aspirations



Joint Declaration between the Minister of Internal Affairs of Georgia and the Minister of the Interior of the Republic of Estonia concerning cooperation in the field of European aspirations



Agreement between the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia and the Ministry of Public Security of the People's Republic of China on cooperation in the fight against crime



Joint Declaration between the Minister of Internal Affairs of Georgia and the Deputy Minister of Interior of Hungary concerning cooperation in the field of European aspirations



Agreement between Georgia and Iceland on the readmission of persons residing without authorisation



Agreement on Operational and Strategic Cooperation between Georgia and the European Police Office

International Agreements/Memoranda 2018



Memorandum of Understanding on the secure communication line between Georgia and the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation



Agreement between Georgia and the Europol on the update of the Annex 1 of the Agreement on Operational and Strategic Cooperation between Georgia and European Police Office



Liaison Agreement between Georgia and the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation



Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia and the Ministry of the Interior of the Italian Republic on strengthening police cooperation



Joint Statement between the Government of Georgia and the Government of Sweden on further strengthening the measures on combating crime and especially organized property crime



Memorandum of Understanding on police cooperation between the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia and the Ministry of Defence and National Security of the Republic of Fiji



Technical Arrangement between the Minister of Internal Affairs of Georgia and the Minister of the Interior of the French Republic on creation of the joint group of specialists in the field of combating transnational organized crime



Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia and the Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Turkey on enhancing border security



Protocol between the Government of Georgia and the Government of Romania on the implementation of the Agreement between Georgia and the European Union on the readmission of persons residing without authorization



Agreement between the Government of Georgia and the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan on the activities of border representatives-border commissars

International Agreements/Memoranda 2019



Letter of Intent between the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia and the Ministry of Interior of the State of Qatar on Law Enforcement Cooperation



Agreement between Georgia and the Czech Republic on Cooperation in Combating Crime



Administrative Arrangement between the Vice Prime Minister, Minister of Internal Affairs of Georgia and the Minister of Interior of the French Republic regarding the reinforcement of operational police cooperation and reception of Georgian police officers on mission to France



Protocol between the Government of Georgia and the Government of the Czech Republic on implementation of the agreement between Georgia and the European Union on the Readmission of Persons Residing without Authorisation



Agreement between the Government of Georgia and the Government of Hungary on Cooperation in the Field of Civil Emergencies



Joint Declaration on Cooperation in the Field of Migration between the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia and the Federal Department of Justice and Police of Switzerland

International Agreements/Memoranda ready for signing/under negotiation

Memoranda/Agreements about Cooperation	Readmission	Mutual recognition of driving licenses	Emergency Situations
Belgium, Iceland, Finland, Luxembourg, Albania, Serbia, Spain (Civil Guard and National Police), United Arab Emirates, Jordan, Pakistan, Portugal, Ukraine (Joint Statement), Slovenia, North Rhine-Westphalia, Bavaria, Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, Tajikistan, Cyprus, Brazil, India	Latvia, Kazakhstan, Sri Lanka, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Serbia, Armenia, Montenegro, Pakistan	Spain, Italy	Austria, Romania

Bilateral Non-Operative Cooperation

Throughout 2017-2019, **43** working meetings and expert visits were planned and conducted by the International Relations Department of the MIA.

Working and expert visits 2017-2019

43 Working and expert visits

Countries:

Visit of the delegation of National Police of **Sweden** in the MIA units

Visit of the delegation of the MIA of **Moldova** in the MIA units

Visit of the liaison officer of the Border Agency of **Canada** in the MIA units

Visit of the National Police of **Lithuania** in the MIA Central Criminal Police Department

Visit of the delegation of the Gendarmerie of the Ministry of the Interior of **Jordan**

Joint commission meeting between the MIA of Georgia and National Police of **Turkey**

Visit of the Ministry of Infrastructure of **Ukraine** in the MIA units

Visit of the National Chamber of Commerce and Industry of **Mongolia** in the MIA Service Agency

Visit of the Ministry of Justice of **Kazakhstan** in the MIA units

Visit of the delegation of the National Police and the National Bureau of Investigation of **Finland** in the MIA units

Meeting of the **EUMM** representatives at the MIA Academy

Visit of the delegation of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of **Tajikistan** and the **OSCE** in the MIA units etc.

Thematic fields:

Structure and Function of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia

Achievements in the field of police

Sharing Georgian experience in the field of decrease of chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear risks etc.

During the reporting period, MIA International Relations Department conducted **16** researches and prepared respective information for **40** reports/questionnaires.

Presented Reports, Inquired Best Practices 2017-2019

40 Reports/Questionnaires			
■ UNODC;	■ JFCNM;	■ US Department of	■ OSCE POLIS Online
■ CTED;	■ CPT;	State Country Report	Information System;
■ HONLEA;	■ CERD;	on Terrorism;	■ COE Assembly on the
■ ECRI,	■ CDDH;	■ US Department of	Rights of the Child;
■ OPCW;	■ UPR;	State Country Report	■ Country Report for
■ ICCPR;	■ OPCW;	on Human Rights	Mini-Dublin Groups;
■ ICESCR;	■ INCB;	Practices;	■ International Narcot-
		■ US Department of	ics Control Board;
		State Trafficking in	■ European Committee
		Persons Report;	of Social Rights etc.
		■ US Department of	■ UN Committees and
		State International	Special Rapporteurs;
		Narcotics Control	
		Strategy Report;	

16 Researches

- Experience of **Republic of Lithuania, Republic of Moldova, Republic of Austria and Republic of Serbia** on International Law Enforcement Coordination Units. As a result, International Law Enforcement Cooperation Center was established in April;
- Legislation and Practice of European Countries:
 - On the Legal Status of Cold Weapons/Non Firearms;
 - On Traffic Rules and Penalties.
- System of Border Representatives;
- Militarized/Semi Militarized Units (Objectives, Structure);
- Laws and Regulations ensuring safety issues during sporting events;
- Structure, Number of Employees and Functions of the Unit responsible for International Operational Cooperation;
- International Practice on the use of special means/force by law enforcement officials;
- Sanctions regarding illegal entry and stay in EU Countries;
- International practice on detecting and combating fraud in healthcare services;
- EU regulations on passengers carried by airlines;
- Research on international police organizations and conditions for obtaining membership etc.

International meetings and visits of the Minister of Internal Affairs of Georgia

In the years of 2017-2019, a number of high level meetings and visits were conducted that contributed to the strengthening of international relations, both deepening existing cooperation and determining future strategic directions.



International meetings and visits of the Minister of Internal Affairs of Georgia

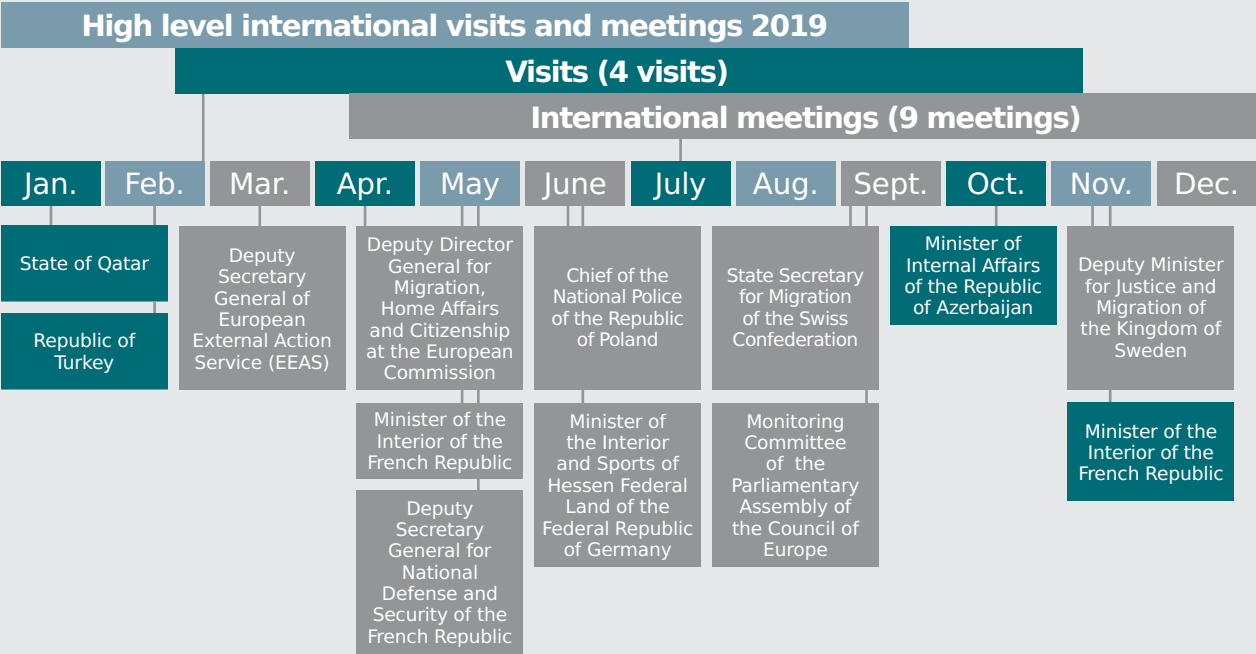
High level international visits and meetings 2018

Visits (14 visits)

International meetings (11 meetings)

Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Austria		Netherlands, EUROPOL	Lithuania		Minister of Justice and Public Security of Brazil		France		Ukraine		Visit of the Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs to Belgium (European Commission)
Germany		Sweden	Commissary General of the National Police of Spain				USA		Minister of Defence and National Security of Fiji		
Indonesia		Minister of the Interior of Turkey	Belgium JFS		State Secretary for Migration of Belgium		Minister of Foreign Affairs of Italy		CPT CoE		France, Strasbourg
Head of Turkey National Police			Minister of the Interior of Rheinland-Pfalz Federal Land				Germany, Deputy Minister of the Interior		State Secretary of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Romania		
			Germany						Visit of the Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs to USA (Security working group)		

International meetings and visits of the Minister of Internal Affairs of Georgia



Meeting with the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Christopher Wray.

Within the framework of the meeting, parties discussed the importance of cooperation between law enforcement agencies of the USA and Georgia and defined priorities for future collaboration. Possibilities of improving the quality of investigations conducted by the MIA and opportunities for Georgian policemen to study in the FBI academy were discussed as well.



Meeting with the Head of the U.S. State Department's Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL), Kirsten Madison.

At the meeting, parties discussed current and planned reforms. Also, the solid cooperation between the INL and the Ministry of Internal Affairs was once again underlined.



Meeting with the Head of the US Department of Export Control and Border Security Program, Philip Dolyff.

Within the scope of the meeting, the emphasis was made on the importance of the cooperation with the United States of America and further development of capabilities of the joint maritime operations center.



Meeting with the Executive Director of Europol, Rob Wainwright.

Within the framework of the visit, the Memorandum of Understanding on the “Secure Communication Line between Georgia and the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation” and the “Liaison Agreement between Georgia and the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation” was signed. On the basis of the above mentioned, Georgia has been given the opportunity to deploy a liaison officer to the headquarters of the Europol.



Meeting with the Minister of the Interior of France, Gérard Collomb.

Within the scope of the visit, the Technical Arrangement between the Minister of Internal Affairs of Georgia and the Minister of the Interior of the French Republic on Creation of the Joint Group of Specialists in the field of Combating Transnational Organized Crime was signed. At the meeting, the Parties discussed effective police cooperation between the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia and law enforcement agencies of the French Republic and emphasized the achievements in the field of readmission of persons residing without authorization among the States.



Meeting with the Federal Ministry of the Interior, Building and Community, Horst Seehofer.

In the framework of the meeting, the positive dynamics of the asylum seekers reduction in Germany was noted. The Parties emphasized effective police cooperation between the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia and the German law enforcement agencies in both operational and non-operational directions.



Meeting with the Council of Europe's Deputy Secretary General, Gabriella Battaini-Dragoni.

Within the scope of the visit in Strasbourg, meetings were held with the Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe, Gabriella Battaini-Dragoni, the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, Wojciech Sawicki, President of the European Court of Human Rights, Guido Raimondi, Secretary of the Venice Commission, Thomas Markert and Commissioner for Human Rights, Dunja Mijatovic. Working visit aimed at informing the European partners on the concept of the "Systematic Upgrade" in the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia.



Meeting with the Minister of the Interior of the Republic of Lithuania, Eimutis Misiūnas.

Parties discussed the cooperation between the countries in the field of police, including the issues related to the fight against organized crime.



Meeting with the Minister for Justice and Home Affairs of the Kingdom of Sweden, Morgan Johansson.

In the framework of the visit, the Joint Statement between the Government of Georgia and the Government of Sweden on further Strengthening the Measures on Combating Crime and Especially Organized Property Crime was signed. The parties discussed the existing effective operational cooperation between the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia and the law enforcement agencies of the kingdom of Sweden. The Minister for Justice and Home Affairs of the Kingdom of Sweden declared that review of Georgia's visa free regime with EU is not part of the political agenda.



Meeting with the Minister of the Interior of the Republic of Turkey, Süleyman Soylu.

In the framework of the visit, the Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia and the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Turkey on Enhancing Border Security was signed. In the scope of the memorandum, parties are given the opportunity to further deepen bilateral cooperation in the field of fighting against trans-border organized crime and strengthening the security of both countries.



Meeting with the State Secretary for Migration of Swiss Confederation, Mario Gattiker.

In the framework of the meeting, “Joint Declaration on Cooperation in the Field of Migration between the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia and the Federal Department of Justice and Police of Switzerland” was signed. Parties discussed ongoing issues related to visa-free travel of Georgian citizens to EU/Schengen Area. Vakhtang Gomelauri extended his gratitude to the Government of the Swiss Confederation for recognizing Georgia as a safe country of origin.



Meeting with the Minister of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Vilayat Eyvazov.

In the framework of the visit of the governmental delegation of Georgia to the Republic of Azerbaijan, Minister of Internal Affairs of Georgia held a bilateral meeting with his counterpart. The parties emphasized fruitful cooperation between the law enforcement agencies and the achievements in the field of combating transnational organized crime.



Meeting with the Minister of the Interior of the French Republic, Christophe Castaner.

In framework of the visit to the French Republic, a bilateral meeting was held with the Minister of Interior, Christophe Castaner. The parties discussed further strengthening of law-enforcement cooperation between two countries and the joint measures and future activities related to the challenges of visa free regime with the EU.



Meeting with the State Secretary to the Minister for Justice and Migration of the Kingdom of Sweden, Lars Westbratt.

The Minister of Internal Affairs, Vakhtang Gomelauri held a meeting with the State Secretary to the Minister for Justice and Migration of the Kingdom of Sweden, Lars Westbratt. At the meeting, the parties discussed successful law enforcement cooperation and reiterated their readiness to future cooperation between the countries.



PROGRAMS/ PROJECTS

EU4 Security, Accountability and Fight against Crime in Georgia (SAFE) – The programme was drafted based on the assessment mission's visits from the European Commission and the EU Delegation to Georgia in the beginning of 2018. The visit was aimed at identifying Ministry's needs and priorities in order to determine future financial assistance.

The programme envisages 28 million euro contribution to support the ongoing reforms in the security sector. Part of the program will be dedicated to increasing the Ministry's capacities in the areas of fighting against crime, integrated border management, combatting cybercrime and hybrid threats, emergency management, fight against organised crime, etc.

Within the framework of projects and programs, cooperation is carried out with the following organizations and partner countries:

- European Union;
- The Council of Europe;
- European Border and Coast Guard Agency;
- The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE);
- NATO Professional Development Program;
- U.S. State Department;
- U.S. Department of Defence;

- U.S. Department of Energy;
- U.S. Department of Justice;
- International Organization for Migration (IOM);
- International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD);
- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP);
- UN Women;
- United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF);
- United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA);
- United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC);
- Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR);
- PH- International - Project Harmony in Georgia;
- Georgian Center for Security and Development (GCSD);
- Human Rights Education and Monitoring Center (EMC);
- EU member states and other countries.

Projects /activities implemented in 2017-2019 with the support of International Relations Department

March, 2017-2018, International conference –“Women in Policing” held annually with the joint cooperation of US State Department Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL) and the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia. The aim of the conference was to increase qualification and motivation of the female law enforcers and outline the role of the female police officers in the police structural units. The event was attended by women police officers from Central Asia, Eastern Europe, Eastern Partnership and the Balkan countries;

- **July 11-13, 2017**-International conference “**Intelligence-led Policing: Path to a Smarter Policing**” took place. The aim of the conference was to introduce different models of intelligence-led policing and share international best practice, as well as present the achievements of the Georgian model. Up to 70 participants took part in the conference. Among the delegates, lead experts from Europol, the United Kingdom, Austria, Germany and Sweden participated in the event.
- **September 14-15, 2017** – Working group meeting on “**The development of Early Warning System in Georgia**”. Within the framework of the meeting, experts from European Union member states shared their best practices with their Georgian colleagues and gave recommendations regarding the implementation of an Early Warning System; a draft version of the Early Warning System concept was also discussed;



- **2018-2019 Annual Donor Coordination Conference** - Main Objective of the conference is to introduce the initiated and planned reforms of the Ministry; the projects financed by the Donor Organizations, Partner Countries, and the Ministry; and present current needs based on the conducted needs assessment for allocating future funds. The event is attended by the representatives of diplomatic missions accredited in Georgia, International and Non-Governmental Organizations;
- **December 6-7, 2018- Police Attaché Forum** - The aim of the conference was to deepen Law Enforcement cooperation and strengthen attaché network, while also share the best practices of EU Member States. The forum was attended by the Police Attachés accredited to Georgia and representatives of EUROPOL. The overall objective of this event was to widen cooperation with partner countries and share information regarding the ongoing and planned reforms;
- **February 10-13, 2019** - in the frame of the visit of the delegation of the MIA to Israel, 2nd meeting of joint working group was held with the participation of the director of the International Relations Department. The meeting aimed at sharing best practice of the Ministry of Public Security of Israel in the fields of combating organized crime, illegal migration, documentation security and cyber crime, border management and patrolling on the line of administrative boundary.

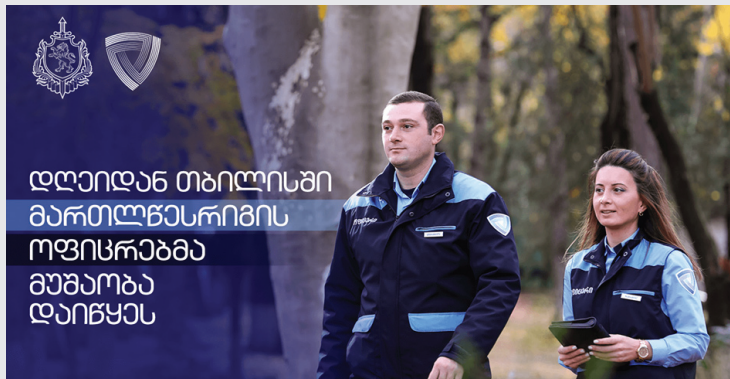
- **September 2019** - 3 Georgian police officers were deployed to France within the frames of the administrative arrangement signed between the Ministers of Internal Affairs/Interior of the two countries. Georgian police officers will support local law enforcement bodies in the fields of tackling illegal migration and combating organized crime originated in Georgia.
- **December 2, 2019** - The director of International Relations Department participated in the working meeting of internal security and migration held in the framework of the “Georgian-French Dimitry Amilakhvari” dialogue in Paris. Dialogue represents a unique format of cooperation, covering main aspects of bilateral relations between Georgia and France and aims at enhancing cooperation regarding the issues of mutual interest between the countries.
- **December 6, 2019** - In the frame of Strategic Partnership Commission between Georgia and USA, the director of International Relations Department attended the security working group meeting. At the meeting, issues related to international police cooperation, the reforms implemented within the Ministry, needs and priorities were discussed.



Meeting of the Ministers of Internal Affairs/Interior of Georgia and French Republic with Georgian police officers deployed to France.

THEMATIC DIRECTIONS INITIATED BY THE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS DEPARTMENT

Implementation of community-oriented policing



For the purpose of effective crime prevention and to deepen partnership with the society, the Ministry has launched the development of the community-oriented policing model. With this aim, through coordination and involvement of the International Relations Department, various significant activities were carried out, including:

- Sharing of international best practices;
- Elaboration of Georgian model of community-oriented policing and creation of the community officer's institute;
- Capacity building of the community officer's institute.

In 2019, with the close cooperation of the International Relations Department and Georgian Center for Strategy and Development (GCSD) a new project on “Building Trust and Confidence between Police and Society” was launched. The project aims at building trust and confidence between the police and society and enhancing awareness on Community Police Officer Institute.



Intelligence-led policing

In 2016-2017, the International Relations Department served as a secretariat of the working group implementing intelligence-led policing in the Ministry. In the reporting period, the secretariat supported the work of the pilot project launched in 2016, and the activities carried out by the working group. Through the support of the secretariat, the legislative amendments were drafted and crime analysts were selected and trained. The training process was led by the experts from Austria and the United Kingdom.

- **Creation of International Law Enforcement Cooperation Center:**

In order to enhance the coordination and effectiveness of international operational law enforcement cooperation, International Relations Department of the MIA prepared several proposals regarding creation of a unified unit responsible for international law enforcement cooperation. For this purpose, the best practices of the relevant units of respective EU member states and Europol's operational partners (namely, Lithuania, Austria, Serbia and Moldova) were analyzed.

In April 2018, the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia transformed the International Criminal Cooperation Center into the International Law Enforcement Cooperation Center, and as a result, incorporated all units competent for international operational cooperation under one center.

- **Advanced Passenger Information/Personal Name Record (API/PNR):**

with the purpose of creating API/PNR systems active work is being carried out with partner state agencies and the International Organization for Migration (IOM). The system aims to prevent, detect, investigate or prosecute cases of terrorism, and other serious and especially grave crimes. Also, it aims at strengthening border control and advancing the fight against illegal migration. International Relations Department is accountable for coordination and implementation of the abovementioned topics within the MIA;

- In order to create an **Early Warning System** for multilateral threats, the Ministry is actively cooperating with other state agencies and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP). The system will enable risk prevention and reduction and increase preparedness. The project envisages the development of an early warning system (MHEWS) oriented at lowering the risk of climate change and other multilateral threats, as well as disseminating critical information on the risks of climate change, in order to implement the risk reduction policy across the country;

- **The Criminal Justice Strategy and Action Plan** defines the Criminal Justice Policy of Georgia and the main directions of reform and aims to conduct effective activities in order to overcome challenges existing in the criminal justice field. All Law Enforcement Agencies, as well as the Public Defender's Office and relevant International and Non-Governmental Organizations, are involved in this reform;
- **In the framework of Criminal Justice Reform**, the Police Strategy and Action Plan is renewed annually and coordinated by the International Relations Department. Furthermore, working group meetings are conducted with the participation of representatives from International and Non-Governmental Organizations and State Agencies.

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**MIA INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
DEPARTMENT**