



*Tuesday 20 September 2016,
at CEPS, 1 Place du Congrès, Brussels 1000*

Triple Book Launch Conference

Understanding the EU's three Association Agreements and DCFTAs with Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine

Conference programme (as of 15 September)

Purpose. The conference will see the publication of three Handbooks, explaining the content of the long and complex legal texts of the three Association Agreements between the EU and Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine, which incorporate Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Areas (DCFTAs). The Handbooks have been produced by four teams of independent experts from the EU and the three partner states, and the leading authors will present their findings, now two years after the signing of the agreements. This is the first main output of a three-year project supported by the Swedish International Development Agency (Sida).

The Handbooks adopt a double approach, with each chapter first explaining the commitments made in the Agreements, which have a large reliance on EU law. This is followed by an account of how the three partner states progress in implementing the agreements.

The target readership of the Handbooks is a wide range of professional people: parliamentarians, officials, business leaders, diplomats, academics, NGOs, journalists and students. Translations of the Handbooks into the languages of the three partner states are underway, and will be launched in the three countries in November. Short popular guides to the Agreements have also been prepared for wider diffusion to people who have no background knowledge of European affairs or international relations, such as high school students and other interested people.

The purpose of the conference, beyond the Handbook launch, is to have a frank debate in some depth over how the whole AA/DCFTA process develops, with opportunities for the expression of ideas on how it may be improved and strengthened.

9.00-9.30 Registration and coffee

9.30-11.00 Handbook launch presentations

Moderator: Steven Blockmans, CEPS

Speakers:

Michael Emerson, CEPS

Mirja Peterson, Sida, Stockholm
H.E. Natalie Sabanadze, Ambassador of Georgia to the EU
H.E. Eugen Caras, Ambassador of Moldova to the EU
Oleksandr Irkin, Deputy Head, Ukrainian Mission to the EU
Lawrence Meredith, Direct Neighbourhood East, DG Near, European Commission
Q & A

11.00-11.15 coffee break

11.15-12.45 Assessments of the political content

Moderator: Richard Youngs, Carnegie Europe

Speakers:

Tamara Kovziridze, Reformatics, Tbilisi

Denis Cenusă, Expert-Grup, Chisinau

Veronika Movchan, IER, Kyiv

Dirk Schuebel, EEAS, Brussels

Q & A

12.45-13.30 lunch break

13.30-15.00 Assessment of the DCFTA and economic content

Moderator: Guillaume Van Der Loo, CEPS

Speakers:

Tamara Kovziridze, Reformatics, Tbilisi

Denis Cenusă, Expert-Grup, Chisinau

Veronika Movchan, IER, Kyiv

Peter Balas, former Deputy Director-General, DG Trade, European Commission

Q & A

15.00 – 15.15 coffee break

15.15-16.45 The AA/DCFTA process – fit for purpose?

Moderator: Hrant Kostanyan, CEPS

Speakers:

Ghia Nodia, Ilia State University, Tbilisi

Nicu Popescu, EU Institute for Security Studies, Paris

Olena Prystayko, Ukrainian Think Tanks Liaison Office, Brussels

Andrey Makarychev, University of Tartu

Q & A

16.45 -17.00 Concluding remarks

Moderator: Steven Blockmans, CEPS

Speaker:

Michael Emerson, CEPS

Links to the Handbooks and Short Guides

Georgia

The Handbook

<https://www.ceps.eu/publications/deepening-eu%E2%80%93georgian-relations-what-why-and-how>

The Short Guide

<https://www.ceps.eu/system/files/Georgia%20pop%20edition%20FINAL.pdf>

Moldova

The Handbook

<https://www.ceps.eu/publications/deepening-eu-moldovan-relations-what-why-and-how>

The Short Guide

<https://www.ceps.eu/publications/moldova-and-europe-%E2%80%93-short-guide>

Ukraine

The Handbook

<https://www.ceps.eu/publications/deepening-eu-ukrainian-relations-what-why-and-how>

The Short Guide

<https://www.ceps.eu/publications/ukraine-and-europe-%E2%80%93-short-guide>