PRESS RELEASE

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The European Union’s INOGATE Programme helps promote Sustainable Energy in Georgia

Tbilisi – A successful INOGATE and Energy Community Information Event was held today in Tbilisi, followed by a Round Table on ‘Sustainable Energy Developments in Georgia’, co-organised by the Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources of Georgia, the INOGATE Technical Secretariat and the Energy Community Secretariat.

Deputy Minister for Energy and Natural Resources Mariam Valishvili, in her keynote address, emphasized that the already strong energy partnership between Georgia and the EU is being further reinforced through cooperation in new areas of sustainable energy and renewable energy sources. Mr. Philip Mikos, representative of the European Commission in charge of Regional Programmes, Neighbourhood East, confirmed that “Europe shares with Georgia the recognition that our citizens need a secure supply of energy at affordable prices. The EU is committed to stepping up energy cooperation with Georgia to improve market integration and energy security and one of the key means is through developing renewable energy sources and promoting sustainable energy measures.”

Both events gave the opportunity for information exchange to reinforce Georgia’s participation in the INOGATE Programme, an EU-funded programme promoting international energy cooperation between the European Union and its Partner Countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia, of which Georgia is one of the founding members. Recent INOGATE support to Georgia was highlighted at the events as follows:

- support for the introduction of technical standards and practices in the oil, gas and electricity sectors;
- support for the development of an energy service company (ESCO) in Georgia;
- Recommendations on trading of electricity produced using renewable energy sources with the EU countries;
- capacity building in energy audit analysis for project funding;
- technical support to energy regulatory practices; and
- technical assistance to energy saving in the building sector.

The events also served to promote the ongoing cooperation between Georgia and the Energy Community, of which Georgia has been an official observer since 2007. The Energy Community Treaty has been developed by the EU to extend the EU’s integrated energy market to South East Europe and beyond on the ground of a legally binding framework. In this way, it provides a stable investment environment and contributes to security of supply in wider Europe. Ukraine and Moldova are two INOGATE Partner Countries that have already joined the Energy Community.

The events were attended by a wide range of energy stakeholders, including government, industry and civil society representatives. The opinions expressed by the participants will feed into the
support strategy of the INOGATE Programme for the benefit of Georgia, with a specific focus on developing policies and actions for sustainable energy and renewable energy sources.

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More information on the INOGATE Programme and energy in the region can be found in English and Russian at:

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