



# PROGRAMME

## CONFERENCE **THE SOUTH CAUCASUS** AGAIN IN TRANSITION

3 April 2025, The Hague, The Netherlands

Conference Centre New Babylon

organised with the  
support of the  
European Union



**THURSDAY, 3 APRIL 2025**

**Conference:** The South Caucasus: Again in Transition

**Location:** The Hague Conference Centre New Babylon

**Address:** Anna van Buerenplein 29, 2595 DA The Hague

**09:30: Coffee and Registration**

**10:00: Opening session**

Welcome and context: LINKS Europe, Dr Dennis Sammut (Director, LINKS Europe), Maximiliaan van Lange (Deputy Director, LINKS Europe)

**10:10: Keynote address: Magdalena Grono, European Union Special Representative (EUSR) for the South Caucasus**

**10:30: Panel presentation: The South Caucasus: A region in transition**

Speakers: Tina Khidasheli (Chairperson, Civic IDEA, Tbilisi, and Former Minister of Defence of Georgia) and Craig Oliphant (Senior Adviser, Foreign Policy Centre, London)

Discussants: Stepan Grigoryan (Chairman of the Board, Analytical Centre on Globalisation and Regional Cooperation, Yerevan) and Ahmad Alili (Chairman, Caucasus Policy Analysis Center, Baku)

Chair: Robert Micallef (Political Adviser, LINKS Europe)

**11:30: Coffee Break**

**11:45: Panel presentation and general debate: The EU and the South Caucasus**

Speakers: Erkin Gadirli (Member of Parliament, Azerbaijani National Assembly), Benyamin Poghosyan (Senior Research Fellow, Applied Policy Research Institute of Armenia, Yerevan), Giorgi Arziani (Founder, The Tbilisi School for Social Research, Tbilisi) and Representative of the EU (tbc)

Chair: Robert Micallef (Political Adviser, LINKS Europe)

**13:15: Lunch**

**14:15: Keynote presentation: tbc**

**14:45: Panel Discussion and general debate: Türkiye and the South Caucasus**

Speakers: Johnny Melikyan (Senior Research Fellow, Orbeli Research-Analytical Center, Yerevan), Mehman Aliyev (Founder and Director, Turan News Agency, Baku), Turkish speaker (tbc)

Chair: Amanda Paul (Senior Policy Analyst, European Policy Centre , Brussels)

## 16:15: Wrap up session

### 17:00-18:00: Drinks Reception

# NOTES

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## About LINKS Europe Foundation

LINKS Europe Foundation was set up in February 2019 to provide for and consolidate a European base for a number of initiatives and projects related to European peace and security, and the European Union's relations with neighbouring regions to the East and to the South, some of which have been the hallmark of the work of the LINKS network since its founding in London in 1997.

From its offices in The Hague, the City of Peace and Justice, LINKS Europe uses a mix of tools in pursuit of its objectives. These range from traditional methodologies for dialogue, to innovative confidence-building measures, to the latest tools for research, analysis, outreach, and communication.

We continue to develop our thinking on confidence-building measures as an important tool for working towards, establishing, and sustaining peace in different contexts. We work to create greater awareness of ongoing issues in international relations. Better-informed citizens are less likely to fall victim of disinformation or populism. Where appropriate we also seek to offer a safe space where different opinions can be aired and discussed.



### Learn more on our website

[www.links-europe.eu](http://www.links-europe.eu)

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