



Dear Rector Nino Doborjginidze,

On behalf of the Taalunie – Union for the Dutch Language, I would like to express our gratitude for our cooperation since 1999 and our shared commitment for university autonomy and academic freedom. We have been informed about your deep concern regarding the recent developments affecting Ilia State University in the context of the announced higher education reform in Georgia.

As a committed supporter of departments of Dutch at 135 universities in 40 countries worldwide, the Taalunie firmly believes that university autonomy and academic freedom are fundamental pillars of democratic societies and essential conditions for excellence in teaching, research, knowledge transfer, and societal and economic impact.

Ilia State University with its vibrant Centre for Dutch-language studies has been, for more than two decades, a valued partner of our organization and an active and respected member of various regional and international networks for professors and students of Dutch-language studies. Our collaboration has been built on shared values of openness, critical inquiry, interdisciplinarity, creativity and international cooperation.

Please be assured of our continued cooperation with Ilia State University and our support for its leadership, faculty, researchers students, and staff.

With sincere support and highest consideration,

Yours faithfully

Gunther Van Neste  
secretary general