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Ukraine Urges Georgia To Distance Itself From Russia

BY KHATIA BZHALAVA

The Ukrainian government calls on the official Tbilisi "to distance itself publicly from the decision of the Russian Federation, whose leadership is violating international law and perpetrating war crimes in Ukraine," Ukrainian Foreign Ministry reports.

The statement comes as Russia lifted part of the trade sanctions against Georgia and allowed the export of Georgian dairy products to the Russian Federation. According to the Ukrainian MFA, the Russian Federation approved this decision against the backdrop of the Georgian authorities' disinclination to support the new sanctions of the European Union against Russia.

"We believe the promotion of trade relations with Russia, whose armed forces are attacking peaceful Ukrainian cities with missiles and bombs, killing innocent civilians, including children, to be unacceptable in the strongest terms," the statement reads, adding that the Georgian government 'must have forgotten' the horrors of war against Russia and "are now trying to seize the moment to



According to the Ukrainian MFA's statement, the promotion of trade relations with Russia is 'unacceptable in the strongest terms'.

cater for their own interests."

The statement stresses that the conduct of business with Russian companies and the profit earned from that cooperation provide Russia with additional resources to continue its

'atrocious' war on Ukraine.

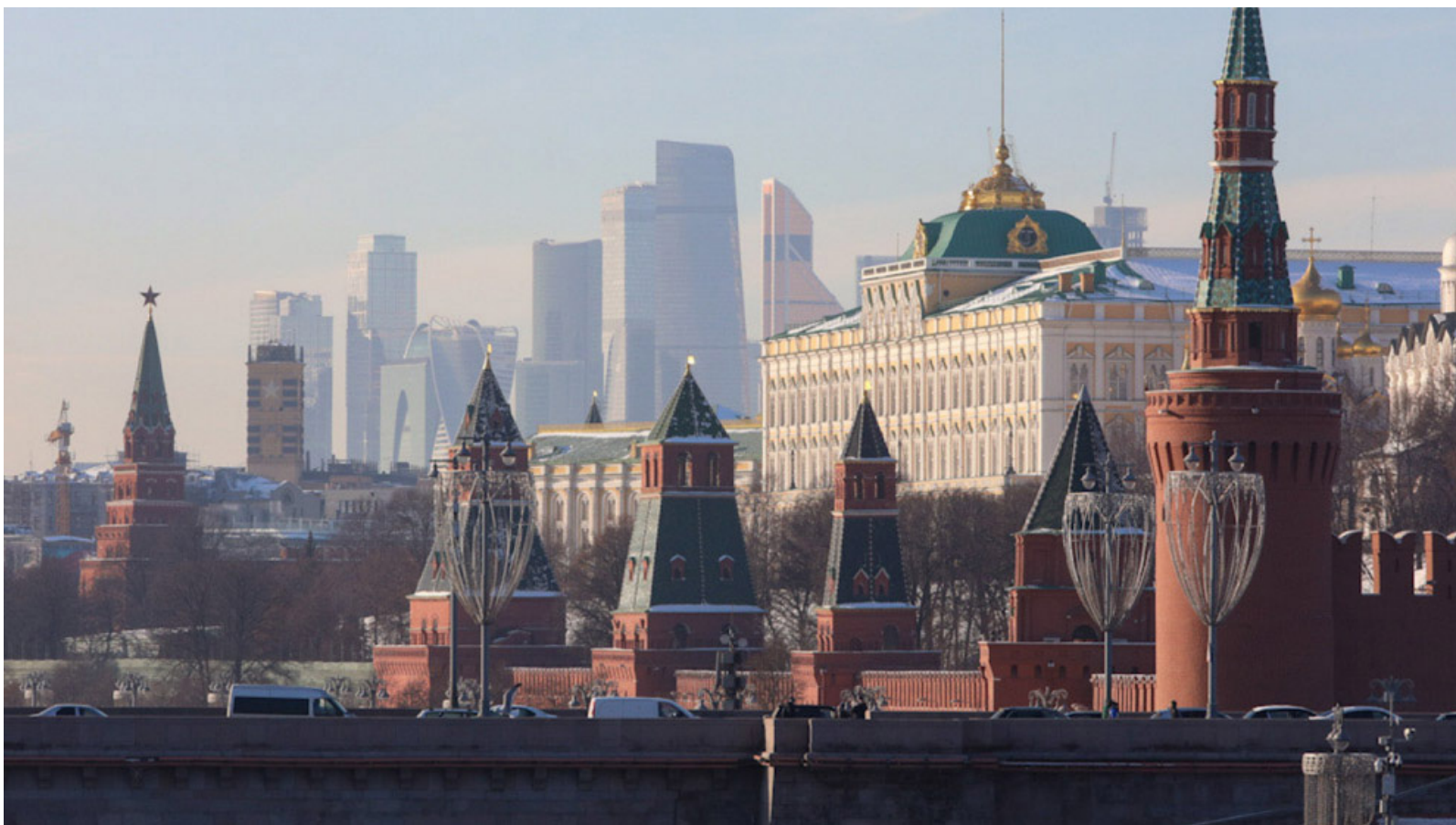
The Minister of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia announced on Monday that approval of the importation of Georgian dairy relates to an application by Georgian private

companies dating back to 2020, stressing that Georgia has not addressed this issue during wartime. He also emphasized that this issue was addressed by private companies that were interested in entering a new market.

Davitashvili stresses that these companies had not received the answer until last week, "when the Russian side proactively decided that there might have been positive decisions concerning the applications received from Georgia."

Russia's recent decision has been negatively assessed by the ruling party MP, Irakli Kadagishvili, who called Russia's decision to open its market for Georgian dairy products a "political provocation." He noted that there will be many such steps from Russia to "escalate the tension," however, the Georgian government's steps would not be 'synchronous' to theirs.

According to Levan Ioseliani, the Vice Speaker of the Parliament and MP from the opposition Citizens party, Many of Russia's initiatives are directly aimed at causing internal strife and social division in Georgia. He stressed that it was not accidental that Russia's Veterinary and Phytosanitary Supervision state body only granted the permission for import of dairy products from Georgia last week, in response to the application dating back to 2020.



Yesterday, the Russian government published a list of countries and territories that carry out 'unfriendly actions' against the country, however, the list does not include Georgia.

Exchange Rates: US Dollar - 3.3991; Euro - 3.6802; GBP - 4.4708; 100 Russian Ruble - 3.9079; Swiss Franc - 3.1905

Russia Publishes the List of 'Unfriendly Countries', Georgia Not Among Them



Since the Russian invasion of Ukraine, rallies are being held daily in front of the Parliament building in Tbilisi to show solidarity with Ukraine. RFE/RL

By NATALIA KOCHIASHVILI

The Russian government has approved a list of unfriendly countries. The list includes countries that have made 'unfriendly acts' against Russia, according to the Russian media agency Tass.

Non-friendly countries include the USA, Canada, EU countries, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Micronesia, Monaco, New Zealand, Norway, Republic of Korea, San Marino, Northern Macedonia, Singapore, Taiwan, Ukraine, Montenegro, Switzerland, Japan.

On March 5, Russian President Vladimir Putin instructed the Cabinet of Ministers to compile a list of unfriendly countries after many countries around the world imposed sanctions on Russia.

The list did not include Georgia, whose government, in the 'national interest', refused to join the sanctions imposed on Russia by the West and many other

countries around the world. The list also does not include any countries of the former Soviet Union, except Ukraine and the Baltic states.

Russian President Vladimir Putin issued an ordinance on March 6 instructing the government to set a two-day list of countries that 'engage in unfriendly activities' against citizens and companies of the Russian Federation.

According to Putin's decree, Russian organizations will be allowed to pay off debts to creditors of 'unfriendly countries' in Russian rubles or 'in another way' as determined by the Central Bank and the Russian Ministry of Finance.

Russia has been waging war against Ukraine since February 24, preceded by Putin's recognition of Ukraine's 2 breakaway regions' independence - Donetsk. Earlier, Russia demanded guarantees that Ukraine won't become a member of NATO.

Putin has announced a 'special military operation', as his government has been referring to the war in Ukraine to "demilitarize and denationalize" Ukraine. The Russian army is

bombing not only military but also civilian facilities in Ukraine. The war has already claimed the lives of hundreds of

peaceful Ukrainians. More than 1.5 million have become refugees. Due to the start of the war against Ukraine, Western states

have imposed severe sanctions on the Russian economy and financial sectors, government officials, and those close to them.

Weather

Tuesday, March 8

Day Partly Cloudy High: 12°C
Night Partly Cloudy Low: 2°C

Wednesday, March 9

Day Mostly Cloudy High: 15°C
Night Showers Low: 3°C

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Invites 16-20 year old young speakers to take part in the
Public Speaking Competition

The theme of the competition is "We expect too much from our heroes". Speakers may interpret this theme in any way they see fit, but they should not use the theme as their title. Each speaker will be allocated 5 minutes.
The competition will be held in three rounds. The first round, March 21, at the English Language Centre "British Corner".
The date and theme of the second round will be announced later.
The competition is sponsored by the Bank of Georgia.
Due to the pandemic the final of the competition in London will be held online.
The deadline for registration is March 15.

Contact us:
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