

Thousands Attend Rally 'Hope to Europe', Shame Movement Announces Party Establishment

By NATALIA KOCHIASHVILI

The rally for supporting Georgia's European future was held in front of Parliament on June 20. At the demonstration, the, which was one of the organizers, announced the establishment of the new party which will happen on June 24. The rally 'Home to Europe!' was attended by multiple thousand people in the capital.

"Our call is to create a National Council of the People's Movement with equal, unanimous parity, but with a majority of civil society votes, that unites us all: civil movements and groups, NGOs, journalists and media unions, political parties, student, cultural and professional unions. Based on the consensus of all the groups included in it, the new People's Movement will make demands on the government," the 'Movement of Shame' manifesto said.

It is also said that non-fulfillment of their demands leads to mass disobedience.

"All regions and cities of Georgia will stand up so that a wave of non-violent resistance will destroy all those who will block our country on its way to Europe."

The next rally was announced on June 24, after the European Council announces its decision on Georgia's candidacy to the EU.

At the end of the rally, the participants marched to Europe



Square.

Before the rally President Salome Zourabichvili issued a special address. In a live broadcast, she spoke about the importance of the European Commission's recommendation, noting that work is now needed in the common interest of the country. She also welcomed the rally planned in front of the par-

liament and called on the law enforcers to do everything possible to hold the rally peacefully.

"Rarely do such crucial days occur in the history of a nation. Now we are at such a crucial moment in our history. I try to use these last days to advance our interests. I personally send emails to our partners."

According to her the recom-

mendation of the European Commission to give us a European perspective, is a big thing that we probably could not have dreamed of. So far, we have not been granted candidate status and they give us hope that if we implement reforms, they will give us.

"I would like to welcome everyone who will come to the dem-

onstration. It is very important to show our face. I would like to appeal to everyone once again that no one comes here for any excesses and I appeal to the law enforcers to do everything to keep calm. I also appreciate the Prime Minister's statement today. This is right and that is what we want," Zourabichvili said.

By MESSENGER STAFF

On June 24, after the announcement of the decision of the European Council on the status of the candidate, another rally will be held in front of the Parliament.

Rally to Home Europe Organizers read a manifesto at today's rally and announced the creation of a new People's Movement that will unite representatives from all walks of life.

"It's time to defend our long-standing historic choice together. In a few generations, one has the greatest responsibility to re-establish one's state and its future. Disappearance, freedom, and not slavery the path of the country and its people continues and such people have not written extinction.

The citizens gathered here realize that the power against the enemy is in unity, we unite with the idea of a European future and we start a new people's movement that will bring our homeland back to Europe.

Every citizen, be it an artist, an athlete, a scientist, a soldier,

Home to Europe Organizers Schedule Another Rally for June 24



a teacher, a police officer, an engineer, or a civil servant - all those who care about the sacrifices made by generations for independence - unite for the national cause - Georgia in the EU.

We are fully aware of the Georgian people and the European Union is already confirming that Georgia has one major problem on its European path. We know his form, name, and surname - oligarch Bidzina Ivanishvili.

Standing here on this avenue, our European ancestors were able to declare the independence of Georgia on May 26, 1918; It was here that we stood together on April 9, 1991, and restored Georgia's independence; And today, on June 20, 2022, we stand together again, and we promise that Georgia will win again and become a member of the European Union.

We make this promise on the very day when we have already fought a great battle to defend the sovereignty of the country and the Western course, and which turns into a day when the

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European Commission's Decision on Georgia 'Historic', PM Says



According to Georgian Prime Minister Irakli Garibashvili, Europe has opened its doors to Georgia.

The European Commission on Friday recommended the European Council to grant Georgia a "European perspective", with the country first required to meet conditions before reaching candidate status.

BY KHATIA BZHALAVA

Georgian Prime Minister Irakli Garibashvili on Monday echoed European Commission's opinion on Georgia's candidacy bid, assessing it as a 'historic decision' as it recognizes the European perspective for the country. On June 17, the European Commission

recommended the Council to give Georgia a 'European perspective', with the country first required to meet conditions before reaching candidate status. The Commission however recommended granting EU candidate status to Ukraine and Moldova. As the PM stated at yesterday's government meeting, as soon as the Council approves

these recommendations, the government will immediately start working with Brussels. The PM also stated that most of the recommendations were already on the government's agenda, adding that "there are other issues we will clarify with Brussels, work on them and get a candidate status."

"As the European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said, Europe has opened its doors to Georgia - it is truly a historic decision", the Government head stressed.

He also noted the granting of the candidate status to Moldova

and Ukraine, pointing out Ukraine's position of being amid a "hardest war" and Moldova's "very difficult situation" in bordering the former.

"At the same time, they [Ukraine and Moldova] are being asked to carry out a number of reforms. In our case, on the contrary, we must first fulfill all the conditions that have been made, implement these reforms, implement priorities, and of course, after this Georgia will be granted the candidate status", the Prime Minister said.

Garibashvili also stressed that Ukraine was given candi-

date status because it is at war, claiming that this fact has been publicly confirmed by European leaders. He also highlighted that Moldova was one of the first countries to be affected by the conflict as it is bordering Ukraine. According to him, due to the major flow of refugees, economic risks have increased in Moldova.

"I truly do not envy either Ukraine or Moldova. I wish to congratulate our friendly Ukrainian and Moldovan people on this success. I want to wish them peace and unification of the country," Garibashvili said.

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Georgian people build bridges instead of building walls, rise to their differences and start a decisive struggle to bring Georgia to Europe and Europe to Georgia. To return. On June 24, 2022, the European Union announces its decision on Georgia and we will meet here again.

This meeting will be not only to turn our love for European rule but first and foremost to turn our anger towards oligarchic rule! That is why on June 24 you will be presented with a new movement led by the people.

Our call is to create a National Council of the People's Movement with equal, unanimous parity, but with a majority of civil society votes, that unites us all: civil movements and groups, NGOs, journalists and media unions, political parties, students, cultural and professional unions.

Based on the consensus of all the groups included in it, the new People's Movement will make demands on the government. Failure to comply with our demands will lead to mass disobedience.

All regions and cities of Georgia will stand on their feet so that a wave of non-violent resistance will destroy all those who will block our country on the way to Europe. Future generations will judge us for what we did - what you did - when the fate of the country was being decided."

ACT: 90% of Georgians View EU Membership as Future of Country's Development

BY NATALIA KOCHIASHVILI

ACT, a research and management consulting company, conducted a survey on Georgia's candidate status in the European Union, in which 802 respondents were interviewed between June 11-16.

According to the survey, the majority of respondents have optimistic expectations about the status of EU candidate and an unconditional perception of the benefits of the European choice.

ACT says that for 90% of Georgians, EU membership means the future of the country's development.

The vast majority of respondents have no doubt that the status of an EU candidate - as a path to full membership in the

EU - is important: this is the opinion of 84% of respondents. The number of those who have a slight candidate status for EU membership does not exceed 11%.

However, every second respondent expects EU candidate status in the coming months (50%). 33% do not hope to get the status, while 17% of respondents could not answer the question.

To the question - if the country will receive the status of a candidate for EU membership, whose credit it should be, the answers showed how discredited the political class is in the country and how citizens remain self-reliant. In particular, in case of obtaining the status of a candidate for EU membership, the largest share of the poll - 40%

will see the merit of the people. 20% of the respondents speak about the role of the Georgian government. The role of parliament, the country's prime minister and the president as a whole is 14%. 9% of respondents emphasize the role of Western/European partners.

If the country does not receive the status of a candidate for EU membership, the Government of Georgia will be responsible for 4 out of 10 respondents (38%). According to 16% of respondents, the Parliament of Georgia, the President, the Prime Minister and Bidzina Ivanishvili are also responsible for the current situation. 12% of respondents also see the guilt of opposition parties.

Weather

Tuesday, June 21

Day Clear
High: 31°C

Night Partly Cloudy
Low: 19°C

Wednesday, June 22

Day Showers
High: 26°C

Night Partly Cloudy
Low: 18°C

published by

The Messenger

43, Chovelidze st., Tbilisi, 0108, Georgia
Founded by Prof.

Zaza Gachechiladze

Tamar Gachechiladze
Publisher

Mob.: +995 599 565621; +995 577 760000
E-mail: messenger@messenger.com.ge
http://www.messenger.com.ge/

Nino Metreveli
Commercial Director

Mariam Mchedlidze
Editor-in-Chief

Khatuna Gogichaishvili
Layout Designer, Photographer

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