



FOCUS
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YOUNG ARCHITECTS
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The EU Stands by Georgia - Results of the 7th Association Council Meeting

BY TEAM GT

The European Union and Georgia united at the 7th meeting of the EU-Georgia Association Council in Brussels this week.

“Chaired the first EU - Georgia Association Council since EUCO confirmed Georgia’s clear EU perspective. Political forces of Georgia should seize this historic opportunity to advance on the EU path. The EU stands ready to accompany you along the way,” Josep Borrell, EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, tweeted after the meeting.

Below are the concluding remarks from The Association Council following their meeting with Georgian authorities.

“The Association Council highlights the historic importance of the decision of the European Council of 23 June 2022 to recognize the European perspective to Georgia. We are ready to grant candidate status once the priorities specified in the Commission’s opinion have been addressed.”

Continued on page 2



Prepared for Georgia Today Business by **GALT & TAGGART** CREATING OPPORTUNITIES

As of 05-Sep-2022

Markets				CURRENCIES			
	Price	w/w	m/m		Price	w/w	m/m
BONDS				STOCKS			
GRAIL 07/28	82.88 (YTM 7.73%)	-1.2%	-2.0%	Bank of Georgia (BGEO LN)	GBP 20.55	+1.5%	+20.8%
GEBGG 07/23	101.21 (YTM 4.58%)	-0.5%	+0.4%	Georgia Capital (CGEO LN)	GBP 6.84	-0.6%	+1.8%
GEOPAP 03/24	94.28 (YTM 10.32%)	-0.3%	+0.7%	TBC Bank Group (TBCG LN)	GBP 17.36	-	+13.9%
SILNET 01/27	96.41 (YTM 9.39%)	-0.1%	+0.1%				
TBC 06/24	98.92 (YTM 6.40%)	-0.2%	+0.1%				
				COMMODITIES			
				Crude Oil, Brent (US\$/bbl)	95.74	-8.9%	+0.9%
				Gold Spot (US\$/Oz)	1 710.40	-1.5%	-3.7%
				INDICES			
				FTSE 100	7 287.43	-1.9%	-2.0%
				FTSE 250	18 629.68	-2.8%	-7.1%
				DAX	12 760.78	-1.0%	-6.0%
				DOW JONES	31 318.44	-2.4%	-8.5%
				NASDAQ	11 630.86	-3.2%	-8.1%
				MSCI EM EE	25.37	-5.2%	-12.5%
				MSCI EM	967.80	-2.4%	-3.5%
				SP 500	3 924.26	-2.6%	-5.3%
				MSCI FM	2 159.18	-2.1%	-1.5%

The EU Stands by Georgia - Results of the 7th Association Council Meeting

Continued from page 1

The future of Georgia and their citizens lies within the European Union," the Council noted. "In this context, the EU welcomes that the work has started in the Georgian Parliament and encourages the ruling party to engage in an inclusive process with the participation of representatives from civil society and parliamentary opposition groups."

They then called on Georgia's political forces to unite, work together and engage to address these priorities as a matter of priority. It then underlined that Georgia's European path is merit-based, and they are ready to use all instruments to support it.

The Association Council welcomed the adoption of the revised EU-Georgia Association Agenda for the period 2021-2027. The document establishes a set of jointly agreed priorities towards further implementation of the Association Agreement, including the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (DCFTA).

"The EU and Georgia reaffirm their continued commitment to bringing tangible benefits to the lives of Georgian citizens across key areas of cooperation," the Council noted. "The EU will support Georgia in implementing the agreed objectives and priorities."

The Association Council reiterated its commitment to further strengthening EU-Georgia relations, including through fully exploiting the potential of the Association Agreement including the DCFTA. The Association Council recalled that the effective implementation of the Association Agreement and its DCFTA, linked to the broader process of regulatory approximation and related necessary reforms, contributes to establishing conditions for enhanced economic and trade relations with the EU, leading to Georgia's further gradual economic integration in the European Union Internal Market, as envisaged in the Association Agreement.

"The EU acknowledges that Georgia has carried out a number of challenging reforms and successfully approximated its legislation with the EU acquis in many sectors," the Council noted. "We express, however, important concerns over the lack of substantial progress and negative developments in some key areas in 2021. We encourage Georgia to redouble its efforts to further consolidate democracy and reduce political polarization, to strengthen the rule of law, the independence, integrity and accountability of the judiciary and the fight against corruption."

"We also call upon Georgia to further enhance the respect of human rights and fundamental freedoms, including gender

equality and ensure equal treatment between women and men, as well as persons belonging to minorities, regardless of religion or belief, ethnic or national origins, race, language, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, ability or other ground in social, political and economic life and stressed the importance of media freedom and civil society engagement. Democracy, rule of law and human rights are essential priorities for Georgia to advance on its European path."

The Association Council welcomed the progress on the preparations of the Human Rights Strategy of Georgia for 2022-2030. The EU recalled that the upcoming discussions in the Parliament create a good opportunity for an inclusive approach and due consultations with all key actors.

The Association Council recalled that upholding the highest standards of judicial independence, the right to a fair trial and the rule of law are essential commitments of Georgia under the EU-Georgia Association Agreement. The EU then urged Georgia to effectively ensure the independence, integrity and accountability of judicial and prosecutorial bodies, and adopt and implement an ambitious judicial reform strategy post-2021 based on a broad, inclusive and cross-party process, in line with European standards and the recommendations of the Venice Commission.

The EU underlined the need to ensure effective and efficient investigations of violence against media professionals in the context of the 5 July 2021 Tbilisi Pride March and strengthen preventive measures.

"We urge Georgia to bring all those responsible to justice, while noting steps taken so far. We welcome that the events related to Tbilisi pride in 2022 proceeded in a peaceful atmosphere," they noted.

The EU underlined its firm support for Georgia's sovereignty and territorial integrity within its internationally recognized borders. The Association Council reaffirmed its strong commitment to conflict resolution in Georgia through a comprehensive approach, including the EU policy of non-recognition and engagement, and with due attention to women, and the peace and security agenda. The Association Council stressed the critical importance of the Geneva International Discussions and Incident Prevention and Response Mechanisms (IPRMs) for addressing and resolving the challenges stemming from the conflict between Russia and Georgia in August 2008.

The EU and Georgia jointly deplore the continued implementation of so-called "treaties" on integration signed between the Russian Federation and the



Georgian regions of Abkhazia and Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia, and other illegal activities of Russia in these regions, in violation of Georgia's sovereignty and territorial integrity, including the military build-up and installation of barbed wire fences along the administrative boundary line. The Association Council expressed concerns about the dire human rights situation in the Georgian regions of Abkhazia and Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia, especially with regard to arbitrary detentions, restrictions to the right to freedom of movement, violation of property rights and education in the mother tongue, ethnic discrimination of Georgians, and impunity in the cases of deprivation of life of Georgian citizens. The Association Council stressed the need for unhindered access by international humanitarian and human rights mechanisms of the relevant international organizations, as well as the EU Monitoring Mission (EUMM), to both of these Georgian regions. The Association Council stressed the importance of support to people-to-people contacts and confidence building measures across the divides.

The Association Council recalled the European Court of Human Rights Judgment in the case concerning the armed conflict between Georgia and Russia in August 2008 and its consequences, which ruled that after 12 August 2008 the Russian Federation, exercising effective control over the Georgian regions of Abkhazia and Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia, violated several provisions of the European Convention of Human Rights.

The Association Council reiterated the obligation for the Russian Federation to fulfill the EU-mediated 12 August 2008 Ceasefire Agreement and reaffirmed its expectation that the Russian Federation should withdraw its military forces from

Georgia's territory and allow the establishment of international security mechanisms on the ground. The Council stressed the obligation to ensure safe and dignified return of internally displaced persons and refugees to their homes.

The Association Council condemned in the strongest possible terms the unprovoked and unjustified Russian war of aggression against Ukraine and agreed to continue cooperating in the international format to hold Russia accountable. In return, Georgia recalled its commitment to continue doing its utmost to prevent sanctions circumvention. The EU and Georgia also committed to continue working closely on further strengthening the overall resilience of Georgia, in line with the objectives of EU-Georgia security cooperation.

The EU reconfirmed its support to Georgia in countering hybrid and cyber threats as well as its continued engagement in strategic communication and countering disinformation. In this context, the EU expressed concern over the increased anti-Western disinformation and rhetoric which risks damaging Georgia's European path. The path which is supported by the government of Georgia and a vast majority of the Georgian people.

"We recognize Georgia as a key partner in the region and acknowledge the importance of EU-Georgia cooperation in the field of foreign and security policy," EU reps noted. "The EU welcomes Georgia's continued participation in civil and military crisis management operations under the Common Security and Defense Policy, namely in the EU military training mission in the Central African Republic and the EU Training Mission in Mali."

"We also welcome the successful recovery from the economic crisis caused by COVID-19, with GDP growth in Georgia

at 10.4% in 2021, a positive trend that continued during the first months of 2022. The Association Council recalls the EU's contribution to Georgia's macroeconomic stability and overall resilience in 2020-2021," the Council noted.

The Association Council welcomed that the EU remained Georgia's largest trading partner and that Georgia's exports to the EU were growing. The Association Council underlined the common ambition to increase EU-Georgia trade flows inter alia through further alleviation of obstacles to trade in a targeted way. The Association Council welcomed that Georgia had fulfilled the main requirements for phase I of the Public Procurement Roadmap, including the establishment of a new dispute resolution body, which led to increased market access.

The Association Council underlined the importance and mutual interest in enhancing the connectivity between EU and Georgia in key areas such as transport, energy and digital sectors, recalling the potential of the agreed flagship initiatives under the Economic and Investment Plan for the Eastern Partnership. The Association Council reiterated Georgia's key role as a partner for European energy security, and notably its transit role for Caspian hydrocarbon resources via the Southern Gas Corridor. In this context, the EU reaffirmed the importance of the Black Sea.

"We welcome Georgia's interest in joining the Single Euro Payments Area (SEPA), and express our willingness to support Georgia's efforts in meeting the criteria. We also welcome Georgia's interest in participating in the EU Single Market Program and Georgia's association to the EU Customs and Fiscalis programs. Further, we appreciate Georgia's strong involvement in Erasmus+, Horizon Europe and the Creative Europe program."

The EU welcomed Georgia's actions to address the European Commission's recommendations under the visa suspension mechanism and encouraged continued and sustained efforts, including to address the issue of unfounded asylum applications and to fight organized crime. The EU welcomed the implementation of the amendments to the Law of Georgia on "Rules for Georgian Citizens Exiting and Entering Georgia".

The Association Council closed its statement by highlighting the importance of the Eastern Partnership as a regional format and underlined the need to adapt it to the evolving reality in the region.

The meeting was co-chaired by High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Josep Borrell, and Prime Minister of Georgia, Irakli Garibashvili.

'Tbilisoba' To Be Held on October 1-2

Tbilisoba will be held in the capital on October 1-2, Tbilisi Mayor Kakha Kaladze announced at this week's municipal government meeting.

After a two-year hiatus, the 'Day of Tbilisi' festival will be held again this year.

Reportedly, there will be live music and folk dance, a food and produce market in Rike Park, and an open-air cafe featuring guest chefs in the renovated Gudiashvili Square.

Kaladze responded to the information spread by individual opposition parties and media outlets regarding the expenses of the 'Tbilisoba' holiday and noted that "these people are engaged in a propaganda campaign of lies".

"On October 1-2, we have the opportunity to hold events dedicated to the Tbilisoba holiday, which will be very large-scale. As per tradition, Tbilisoba will be hosted by

Rike and Leghvtakhevi. This year, events will also be held on Orbeliani and Gudiashvili squares. We are expecting delegations from Tbilisi's friend and partner cities. Various activities and concerts will be held throughout the day," Kaladze said.

Tbilisoba is an annual October festival which celebrates the diversity and history of Tbilisi, the capital of Georgia. It was first held on October 28, 1979, and has since become an established tradition. The festival features open-air concerts of traditional music and dancing and various cultural events, centered on Old Tbilisi, the historical part of the city. Beyond celebrating the city's past and present, people from all over Georgia represent their region at the fair of the harvest and Rtveli. Awarding honorary citizenship of Tbilisi by the city government also occurs in the framework of Tbilisoba.

Awards are given to honorary citizens by City Hall during the event.





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中华国粹

MOUTAI

Golden Autumn Greetings from CHINA

ოქროს შემოდგომის მილოცვები ჩინეთიდან

Trouble in the Neighborhood: Watching the North Caucasus



Ramzan Kadyrov addresses servicemen attending a review of the Chechen Republic's troops and military hardware in Grozny. Source: Musa Sadulayev/AP Photo

BY MICHAEL GODWIN

Following its historical traditions, the Caucasus region continues to be a flashpoint of conflicting interests and cultures. On the southern side, Georgia has had its qualms with its northern neighbor. On the northern side, the multitude of regions still clash with the Russian Federation, despite being subjects to the Kremlin.

Chechnya, Dagestan, Ingushetia, and North Ossetia-Alania comprise only a part of the more tumultuous areas Russia has attempted, and arguably still does attempt, to subjugate. This region's most famous figure is the head of the Chechen

Republic, Ramzan Kadyrov. The boisterous and domineering leader leads a multifaceted life, one he has not been shy to put on display on social media.

Despite flaunting exotic cars, an opulent lifestyle, and lavish parties complete with Western celebrity visits, his family and people's roots come from centuries of anti-Russian sentiment. While Kadyrov also promulgates an image of devout conservatism and a commitment to Islam, he also broadcasts a strong man persona. Images abound of him with rifles and machine guns, armored cars, and selfies with members of his elite personal guard clad in the latest military kit.

In a recent video, the leader of Chechnya said he would be taking a "long and indefinite vacation" due to his lengthy time in public service. Shortly after this,

he posted a reply saying that not only was it not appropriate to take personal time, but that all his followers should be committed to the cause in Ukraine. While referring to Ukraine and her Western supporters as "global satanism," he claims "several thousand more determined volunteers and elite fighters are preparing to be sent to help the advancing allied forces."

Kadyrov is best known in Western military expert and analyst circles as one who often uses his widely followed social media presence as a form of information warfare. This latest stunt is likely a move to cultivate support and draw attention. Since the region has had its history of being a problem for Moscow, it is Kadyrov who is responsible for any dissent.

Another recent video released shows the dissent that could be brewing on the northern side of the Greater Caucasus Mountains. A Chechen anti-Russian movement has reportedly begun in the region. A video shows several members, clad in combat gear and brandishing Kalashnikov-series rifles, set fire to a Russian flag while holding up the flag of the Chechen Republic of Ichkeria.

In their video, they declare war on Kadyrov's "godless regime" and call on all people to rise up against his pro-Putin government. In addition to saying that they have the means, arms, and people to support this movement, they say that much of Kadyrov's proverbial dirty laundry will be aired "soon." While claims like this are made almost routinely in this contentious region, this is the largest and most credible in recent years. "Kadyrov, the time that you were afraid of has come. Freedom to Ichkeria!" the group exclaims while concluding their video.

This shadowy group, calling themselves the "Sons of Ichkeria," is not totally alone. The video has been released with narration and follow-on videos from Islam Belokiyev. Belokiyev is the spokesman for the Sheikh Mansur Battalion, a much better known unit of Chechens fighting in the Ukrainian Armed Forces against Russia, mostly in the eastern Donbas region.

While no direct connection between the Sons of Ichkeria and the military authorities in Kyiv has been established,



Members of the Sheikh Mansur Battalion, with the battalion commander Muslim Cheberloevsky in the center. Photo by Neil Hauer via Twitter

the two share a similar identity. According to Belokiyev, they have been "conducting military training, the purpose of which is the de-occupation, decolonization, and subsequent denuclearization of the Russian Empire." Additionally, he says, now is the time to strike at Russia, calling them weak and vulnerable.

"Right now, Russia is very weak and has stretched its forces ... so we are closely monitoring the situation in Ukraine with the aim of rocking the Caucasian front. We will act when and where we want to," he claims in his statement. Elaborating, Belokiyev says the militant group in the North Caucasus is preparing arms, organizing assault groups, and preparing for the operation they have called "Lightning in the Mountains."

This development gives context for Kadyrov's series of videos. As a propaganda move to motivate people to feel more sympathetic to the leader and rekindle their fervor against the opposition, it works as a galvanization of his power. This power is in a region that Moscow knows is held because Kadyrov is on the Kremlin's payroll, a number some say is in the hundreds of millions of dollars.

As a result of this leverage, it's highly

likely that Kadyrov knows he has this over the head of Vladimir Putin. Not wanting any military divergences from their "special military operation" in Ukraine, Putin is unlikely to act too rashly with Kadyrov. The Chechen leader will be free to act as he pleases, and if a popular front arises in his region, use the brutal repression techniques he is infamous for upon the Sons of Ichkeria.

This immense potential for instability in the North Caucasus puts Georgia in a peculiar position. While being involved isn't a notion, preventing the spill-over of hostilities and violence is paramount. Tbilisi and the nation's security forces will need to reckon with the potential of not only militants using the remote mountain regions as a resupply area and safe route to travel, but also a potential source of recruits.

Similar to the past issues with militant elements in the northeast of the country, Georgia's counterterrorism and police units should exercise area denial operations ahead of any potential outbreak of hostilities. The North Caucasus, while a geo-ethnic partner to the nation, is also a potential powder keg and southern front as popular support for Russia's invasion of Ukraine diminishes.

That Proxy War

OP-ED BY NUGZAR B. RUHADZE

The war-ridden 20th century is in the past, the Cold War is over, the powerful giant of the USSR has disappeared, and the world has become a seemingly safer place to live. And yet the Russian-American ideological and strategic bickering is still ongoing, their feud interminable and unabated. The West in general and America in particular, keeping up the banner of freedom and democracy, are intensively and decidedly helping Ukraine to defend itself from the Russian aggression. Their support is clear and present, and the determination to continue so is adamant. Preferences are stated and the intentions are known to the entire world.

I only wonder if America would ever get involved in a direct military conflict, and why Ukraine is more valuable to America than to Russia. I received a prompt answer to this from the author of many books on American and world politics, Bill Thomas, who, by the way,

is our Georgia' longtime dedicated friend: "If Trump were president, there would be no war in Ukraine. The long-term policy of the Obama-Biden administration of the Democratic Party has been to topple Putin. The Ukrainian government, controlled by organized crime bosses, has let itself be used for that purpose, and we can see the results. Most Americans don't know the role the US has played in starting the ongoing proxy war with Russia. Blame that on the Democrat-controlled mainstream media here, but enough people are beginning to realize that giving billions in military aid to Ukraine, one of the most corrupt countries in the world, is not a good idea, especially with the American economy in such bad shape, thanks to Biden's policies, which are really the work of Obama, who's running the show behind the scenes. Keep in mind that the other goal of the Democrats is to wreck the American economy and along with it American self-confidence, turning the United States into Euro-style neo-socialist type of a country. I don't think Biden/Obama would ever risk a direct confrontation

with Russia. And a new Republican House and Senate in November could make that virtually impossible."

Before I ventured to throw in this quote, I asked Bill for his permission to use it, and he said to go ahead. I will surely keep the correspondence in my archives for a while. As an American citizen, I certainly want any American administration, whether Democrat, Republican or Independent, to be strong, fair and efficient, and being a journalist in action, I am refraining from taking sides or making points. Bill is a weathered American conservative and I am not surprised at his words, but what if he's right? Well, hunting for the ultimate truth and pulling it into my stories has become a difficult venture to undertake, especially since the infamous Russian-Ukrainian war was unleashed. That is why I'm always compelled to allude to quotes and excerpts from various sources.

Let's have a look at this one now, which comes from an American Democrat: "The conflict is a clear test for democracies around the world, and the Ukrainian resistance against Russian forces is part of a great battle for freedom." Yes, these



Image source: Financial Times

words belong to President Biden. Somebody might say that the American President is more believable than another American man of letters, but it is democracy that prompts us to treat any opinion with equal honor and fairness, whether it belongs to a king or his subject.

Here is what Harlan Ullman, one of the often-quoted American opinion contributors says: "Russian military doctrine asserts that to defend against a perceived existential threat to the state, nuclear weapons would be used. Would a defeat in Ukraine trigger that use to shock Kyiv into surrender or an imposed peace? That remains one of many potentially existential questions that cannot be dis-

counted or answered with certainty." Even the mere mention of nukes as a finale to this tragic rhapsody throws us into awe, saying nothing about its actual usage as an imaginable consequence of this desperate confrontation, officially called the Russian-Ukrainian war but having already developed into proxy warfare.

Call it what you want, but the worldwide thoughts and utterances about the war are disparate, and most of them are put forward with dubious hesitation, and the worst tragedy of the moment is that the world will definitely become poorer if it loses either Russia or Ukraine, more so if it loses both.



2020年迪拜世博会中国馆官方合作伙伴
China Pavilion Official Partner at Expo 2020 Dubai

千年古酝承传者 源起1368

Golden Autumn Greetings from CHINA

ოქროს შემოდგომის მილოცვები ჩინეთიდან



中国的 世界的 五粮液
FROM CHINA TO THE WORLD
WULIANGYE

War Updates: Ukraine Counterattacks in Kharkiv while Russian Troops Are Occupied in the South



Image source: Reuters

BY ANA DUMBADZE

Russian President Vladimir Putin slammed the West again on Wednesday, saying sanctions imposed on Russia for its invasion of Ukraine are a “danger” to the world.

Speaking at an economic forum in Russia’s far east, Putin said Western countries have aggressively tried to impose their way of life on other countries and to make them “submit to their will.”

Meanwhile, Ukraine appears to have launched a counterattack in the Kharkiv region in the northeast of the country, with several reports of fighting in the region.

Overnight and early Thursday morning, the head of the Kharkiv regional state administration, Oleg Synegebov, posted on Telegram that Russian forces were shelling various parts of Kharkiv, the second-largest city in Ukraine, and fighting was taking place in the province.

Analysts said Russia’s redeployment of troops from eastern to southern Ukraine to defend against Ukraine’s counteroffensive there has likely enabled

Kyiv to carry out the counterattack around Kharkiv.

‘HEAVY FIGHTING’ TAKING PLACE IN NORTH, EAST AND SOUTH OF UKRAINE, UK SAYS

Britain’s Ministry of Defense has confirmed earlier reports from officials in Ukraine that the armed forces there have been counterattacking Russian positions in the northeastern and eastern parts of the country, as well the south, where a counteroffensive was launched last week.

“Over the last 24 hours, heavy fighting has taken place on three fronts: in the north, near Kharkiv; in the east in the Donbas; and in the south in Kherson Oblast,” the ministry said in its intelligence update Wednesday.

“Russia’s planned main effort is probably an advance on Bakhmut in the Donbas, but commanders face a dilemma of whether to deploy operational reserves to support this offensive, or to defend against continued Ukrainian advances in the south,” the ministry added.

“Multiple concurrent threats spread across 500km will test Russia’s ability to coordinate operational design and reallocate resources across multiple groupings of forces. Earlier in the war, Russia’s failure to do this was one of the

underlying reasons for the military’s poor performance,” it said.

Analysts at the Institute for the Study of War said in an overnight update that “Ukrainian forces have launched likely opportunistic counterattacks in the southern Kharkiv Oblast [province] and retaken several settlements.”

The analysts noted that Russian redeployments of forces from this area to defend against the Ukrainian counteroffensive in Kherson, southern Ukraine, “likely prompted and facilitated these counterattacks.”

ZAPORIZHZHIA NUCLEAR POWER PLANT SHUTDOWN BEING CONSIDERED

Ukraine’s top nuclear inspector says the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant could be shut down if hostilities continue around the plant. Europe’s largest nuclear plant continues to be at the center of accusations between Russia and Ukraine — with both repeatedly accusing each other of shelling the Russian-occupied facility.

The head of Ukraine’s nuclear regulatory body, Oleh Korikov, said shutting down the plant was under consideration. “Further deterioration of the situation will lead to us being forced to operate

backup diesel power generators in order to sustain our security systems, and diesel fuel reserves are very difficult to replenish in conditions of war,” Korikov said Wednesday in an interview broadcast on YouTube.

“Then it will have consequences not only for Ukraine but also for other countries,” he said.

The option of turning off the station is indeed considered if appropriate conditions arise that would require such a stop. If this happens, the 6th power unit will be turned off.

The 6th reactor is currently the only one functioning in the plant, which was inspected by the International Atomic Energy Agency last week.

In the 52-page report, IAEA investigators warned that while ongoing shelling “has not yet triggered a nuclear emergency, it continues to represent a constant threat to nuclear safety and security.”

“The IAEA recommends that shelling on site and in its vicinity should be stopped immediately to avoid any further damages to the plant and associated facilities, for the safety of the operating staff and to maintain the physical integrity to support safe and secure operation,” wrote IAEA Director General

Rafael Grossi.

Ukraine’s Permanent Representative to the United Nations Sergiy Kyslytsya said that Russia tried to exert pressure on IAEA Director General Rafael Grossi during his visit to the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant. Grossi, who led a team of investigators to the site earlier this month, published a report yesterday on the nuclear watchdog agency’s findings.

Grossi recommended an immediate establishment of a demilitarized zone at the nuclear plant.

MORE THAN 50 AGRICULTURAL VESSELS HAVE LEFT UKRAINE FOR ASIA

More than 50 agricultural vessels have departed Ukraine for Asia in the first month since exports restarted, Ukraine’s Infrastructure Minister Oleksandr Kubrakov said.

Under the UN-backed Black Sea Grain Initiative, a deal to reopen three Ukrainian ports, 54 vessels carrying more than 1 million metric tons of agricultural products have left for Asia. He added that so far 16 vessels have departed Ukraine for Africa, carrying nearly half a million metric tons of grain and other foodstuffs.

Another 32 vessels carrying nearly 1 million metric tons of agricultural goods have departed for European ports.

SIX NATO ALLIES HAVE YET TO RATIFY FINLAND AND SWEDEN’S ENTRY INTO THE ALLIANCE

Six NATO member countries have yet to sign the ratification protocols for Finland and Sweden to join the military alliance.

In May, both nations began the formal process of applying to NATO as Russia’s war in Ukraine raged. All 30 members of the alliance have to ratify for Sweden and Finland to be allowed into the group.

Greece, Hungary, Portugal, Slovakia, Spain and Turkey are the last six allies yet to do so.

Last month, US President Joe Biden signed ratification documents following a 95-1 Senate vote to bring Finland and Sweden into NATO.

PUTIN AND XI TO MEET NEXT WEEK AS WAR IN UKRAINE SHOWS NO SIGNS OF STOPPING

Russian President Vladimir Putin and Chinese President Xi Jinping plan to meet next week in Uzbekistan, a Russian official said Wednesday, announcing a summit that could signal another step in warming ties between two powers that are increasingly facing off against the West.

Putin and Xi last met in Beijing in February, weeks before the Kremlin sent troops into Ukraine.

The two presidents oversaw the signing of an agreement pledging that relations between the sides would have “no limits.”

It remains unclear whether Xi knew at the time of Russia’s plans to invade Ukraine.

USAID: The Richest Oligarch in Georgia has Captured the State

As it became clear over the past decade that the richest oligarch in Georgia has captured the state, research examined the impunity of corrupt officials, Georgia's growing economic dependence on Russia, and the oligarch's secret businesses in Russia," reads the Dekleptification Guide released by USAID, which is a new handbook for uprooting entrenched corruption and seizing windows of opportunity to dismantle kleptocracy.

The Guide brings together lessons learned based on groundbreaking reform movements around the world.

According to the Guide, from 2004 to 2012, Georgia implemented a far-reaching public sector reform that led to a

sharp reduction in bribery.

"In 2004, within just a few months of Georgia's Rose Revolution, the new government was already reorganizing the executive branch, enacting legislation, arresting corrupt former officials, and confiscating misappropriated assets—a sweeping campaign that led to an 80% decline in bribery by 2005," reads the document.

According to the organization, Ukraine's Orange Revolution and Georgia's Rose Revolution ended when Russia-backed oligarchs funded pro-Russian candidates who became presidents and rekleptified the two countries.

"If and when windows close, political analysis can understand how and why antireform elements are regaining power.

Assessments should inform sharper US government interventions that could help to defend reform gains and hold the regime accountable. Such tools could include freezes in assistance to the increasingly corrupt government, more forceful public diplomacy, and sanctions on high-level corrupt officials. Another recent example of a USAID partner analyzing a closing window is the work of Transparency International Georgia. As it became clear over the past decade that the richest oligarch in Georgia has captured the state, their research examined the impunity of corrupt officials, Georgia's growing economic dependence on Russia, and the oligarch's secret businesses in Russia," reads the USAID document.



US Embassy on Wiretapping Law: This Moves Georgia Away from European Integration

The Embassy of the United States of America in Georgia has issued a statement on overcoming the President's veto regarding the wiretapping law.

"Parliament's decision to intentionally pass wiretapping legislation that expands the government's ability to monitor its citizens does not comply with European standards and is against the clear recommendations of the Venice Commission and Western partners. This law moves Georgia away from European integration, not towards it," reads the statement.

The Parliament overrode the President's veto regarding the law on wiretapping.

Initially, the motivated remarks of the President on the Amendments to the Criminal Procedure Code of Georgia were voted on, which was supported by only 20 MPs, while 68 MPs voted against.

After that, the vetoed draft law was put to the vote, which was supported by 79 MPs, while 27 voted against.

Parliamentary Secretary of the President of Georgia Giorgi Mskhiladze presented the President's motivated remarks at the plenary session.



BUSINESS

Georgia and the Daunting Task of Connecting Asia and the EU

ANALYSIS BY EMIL AVDALIANI

As the war in Ukraine began and a number of traditional Eurasian trade routes became untenable, Georgia has been active diplomatically in advancing the Middle Corridor and its place in it.

The connectivity patterns throughout the Eurasian region are changing as a result of the war in Ukraine. The Russian route, which for decades served as a crucial link between the EU and China, is closed, and Beijing fears that economic sanctions imposed by the West on Russia could potentially have a severe spillover impact on the Chinese economy.

This major geopolitical shift pushed the Central Asian states, Turkey, the EU, and China to seek alternative corridors. The Middle Corridor, which runs from the Black Sea to Central Asia via the South Caucasus, is, geographically, the shortest route between western China and the EU. Georgia plays an important role in this regard, owing to its existing infrastructure and geographic location.

Georgia has taken part in a number of intergovernmental meetings which are aimed at boosting the corridor. For instance, the development of the Trans-Caspian International Transport Cor-

ridor was the subject of a quadrilateral statement by Georgia, Azerbaijan, Turkey, and Kazakhstan on March 31, which produced a joint statement on the need to strengthen the corridor. In May, together with Kazakhstan and Turkey, Georgia discussed the Middle Corridor in a meeting held in Ankara. Later that month, the Georgian railway company announced that it was collaborating with companies from Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan to establish a new shipping route between the Georgian port of Poti and the Romanian port of Constanta.

Apart from this, the Georgian leadership has been active through a series of visits to Central Asian states. Georgian PM Irakli Garibashvili also paid a visit, arriving in Uzbekistan on July 18 to meet with his Uzbek counterpart, Abdulla Aripov. In a meeting with the Uzbek PM, Garibashvili discussed bilateral cooperation with a focus on economic relations and Georgia's role as a transport corridor for Uzbekistan.

On July 20th, the Georgian state delegation visited Turkmenistan, where both states signed an agreement on launching direct flights connecting the countries and increasing cargo turnover between them.

Another country visited by the Georgian delegation was Kazakhstan, where on July 26–27, President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev and the Georgian PM discussed

opportunities for bilateral cooperation in trade and logistics, with a focus on the Middle Corridor.

The significance of trade corridors and Georgia's role in them is evident. Tbilisi has been insistent on playing a major role in Eurasian connectivity and made this ambition the backbone of its geopolitical aspirations ever since the end of the Soviet Union. With the war in Ukraine, the prospects for such objectives seem more promising.

The necessary infrastructure is already in place. The 2017 launch of the Baku-Tbilisi-Kars railway and the expanding network of regional roads connecting the Caspian Sea to the Black Sea provide a solid foundation for trade cooperation between China and the EU in the South Caucasus. Both Azerbaijan and Georgia are BRI signatories and have extensive trading ties with China.

DRAWBACKS TO GEORGIA'S AMBITIONS

Yet the Middle Corridor is a vulnerable concept. Geography is a significant obstacle since the route is effectively multi-modal and includes both land and the sea. This complicates shipment. No wonder that China has always favored shipping commodities via the Russian route since it included fewer states and a geopolitical environment that was more or less predictable and stable. The situ-



There is still no clear resolution to the Anaklia saga. Even in an ideal scenario, it may take years for the port to be built. Source: emerging-europe.com

ation is different in Central Asia and more so in the South Caucasus. It is true that relations between Georgia and Russia appear to be stable, though with deep mutual suspicions, while Azerbaijan and Turkey seem closer to peace with Armenia. However, it is still unclear how the conflict in Ukraine will affect the Caucasus. If Russia prevails, it will probably be less patient with a wide corridor circumventing it from the south through Georgia.

Additionally, the Black Sea lacks infrastructure, where having a deep sea port is now more important than ever. There is still no clear resolution to the Anaklia saga. Even in an ideal scenario, it may take years for the port to be built. Another issue is that getting to the EU from Georgian ports is challenging due to the poor condition of the rail infrastructure in Romania and, as of late, Ukraine. Thus, the South Caucasus route before the Ukraine War was never sufficiently competitive.

From a broader perspective, the Middle Corridor also lacks effective inter-governmental dialogue. Those measures mentioned above, and which involve Georgia, Azerbaijan, and Kazakhstan, are a good indicator of where the process might potentially go. But it could also stall where it stands at the moment, as

has often happened in previous years and decades. To make tangible progress, either the EU or China should heavily invest in the corridor to create relatively seamless transit via the seas and lands of several countries.

So far, China has shown little economic interest in the South Caucasus. From Beijing's perspective, the region remains not only under Russia's geopolitical purview but also under the Kremlin's heavy economic influence. The intrusion from China might not be welcomed by the Kremlin. However, as other cases (such as in Central Asia) have demonstrated, China can go against Russian interests when and where it is critical for Beijing. China is also weakly represented in Azerbaijan's economy. The latter is firmly within Turkey's and Russia's economic areas, which limits the space for Beijing. Moreover, with the war in Ukraine, China's presence in the Black Sea region is also undergoing significant changes. It was not big enough even before the invasion, with Beijing failing to get the right to build the Anaklia port and facing resistance from the West in its attempt to win over Ukraine.

Emil Avdaliani is a professor at European University and the Director of Middle East Studies at the Georgian think-tank, Geocase.

ISET ECONOMIC INDICATORS

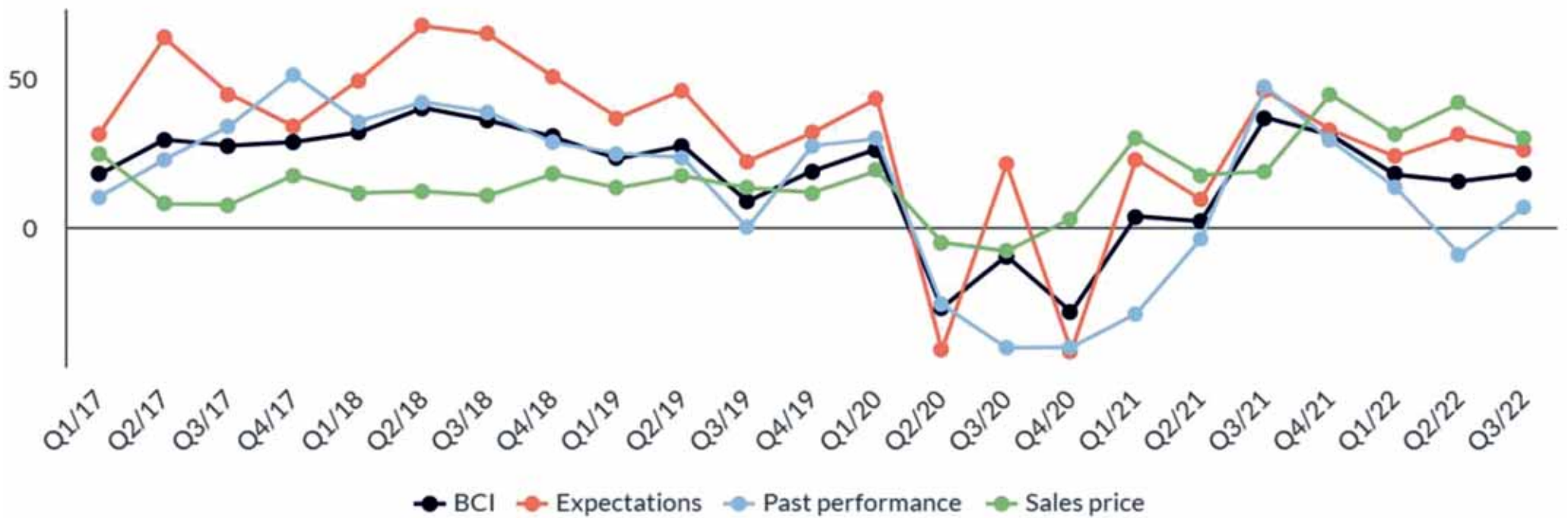


International School of Economics at TSU

BUSINESS CONFIDENCE INDEX

For more: WWW.ISET-PI.GE

ISET Business Confidence Index | Q3 2022



After a decrease in the previous two quarters, BCI improved moderately by 2.6, compared to Q2 2022, and reached 17.7 index points for Q3 2022. Expectations in the Georgian private sector decreased by 5.0 index points, reaching 25.6. As for the business performance over the three months, it increased significantly, reaching 6.7 points, indicating an upturn in production, turnover, and sales. Compared to the previous quarter, the Sales Price Expectation Index decreased, showing a decline in the market share of businesses that expect higher sales prices in the next quarter.

Compared to Q2 2022, in Q3 2022, BCI decreased in the agriculture (-49.9), financial (-8.4) and manufacturing (-5.6) sectors, while it increased in construction (+13.8), service (+11.9), and trade (+6.2) sectors.

BCI QoQ change by sector

Sectors	Q3/22	Change
Manufacturing	10.3	-5.6
Construction	4.6	13.8
Trade	27.5	6.2
Service	24.3	11.9
Agriculture	2.2	-49.9
Financial	23.3	-8.4
Other	0	6.7

Business confidence for the third quarter of 2022 increased by 17.9 index points for large companies and by 5.8 points for SMEs.

PAST PERFORMANCE

The Businesses' Past Performance Index, which shows the development of busi-

Past 3 Months QoQ change by sector

Sectors	Q3/22	Change
Manufacturing	13.9	-4.7
Construction	-7.7	30.8
Trade	2.7	16.5
Service	25.0	38.7
Agriculture	-44.4	-72.4
Financial	10.4	-2.9
Other	-15.4	22.3



nesses' production, turnover, and sales in Q3, increased significantly compared to Q2 of 2022 and reached 6.7. The biggest improvement for Q3 2022 was observed in the service (+38.7), followed by construction (+30.8) and trade (+16.5) sectors. The Past Performance Index decreased for agriculture (-72.4), followed by the manufacturing (-4.7) and financial (-2.9) sectors.

Business activities in the three months improved for both large businesses and SMEs. For large firms, the index increased by 38.0 points and settled at 41.4. For

Large

SMEs, the same indicator increased by 26.5 and reached 3.0 index points.

EXPECTATIONS
The Expectations Index decreased by 5.0 index points for Q3 2022 and settled at 25.6. Prospects for the following three months have deteriorated for all sectors except for the construction (+15.4) and service (+8.5) sectors. The highest decrease is observed in the agriculture (-63.3), followed by manufacturing (-46.2), financial (-3.0), and trade (-0.5) sectors.

Business expectations have improved for large firms (+12.7) and deteriorated moderately for SMEs (-0.8). 64% of the surveyed businesses do not expect any changes in employment over the next three months, 7% of firms stated that they would hire fewer employees in the future, and 29% think that they would hire more.

41% of the firms surveyed expect the

Expectations QoQ change by sector

Sectors	Q3/22	Change
Manufacturing	44.4	-46.2
Construction	23.1	15.4
Trade	31.1	-0.5
Service	29.6	8.5
Agriculture	0	-63.3
Financial	15.6	-3.0
Other	0	-1.4

economic condition of their businesses to improve over the next three months, 46% do not predict any changes, and 13% of businesses believe their business conditions will worsen.

SALES PRICE EXPECTATIONS

The Sales Price Expectations Index decreased to 29.8 points in Q3 2022. The index decreased for all sectors, except for the trade (+0.03) sector, with the biggest decrease in agriculture (-37.1), manufacturing (-18.5), construction (-15.4), and service (-11.4) sectors. The overall Sales Price Expectations Index decreased for both large companies and SMEs.

Around 35% of all firms surveyed intend to increase their prices over the next three months. 3% of firms expect to decrease prices, and the remaining 63% are not planning to change their prices in the near future.

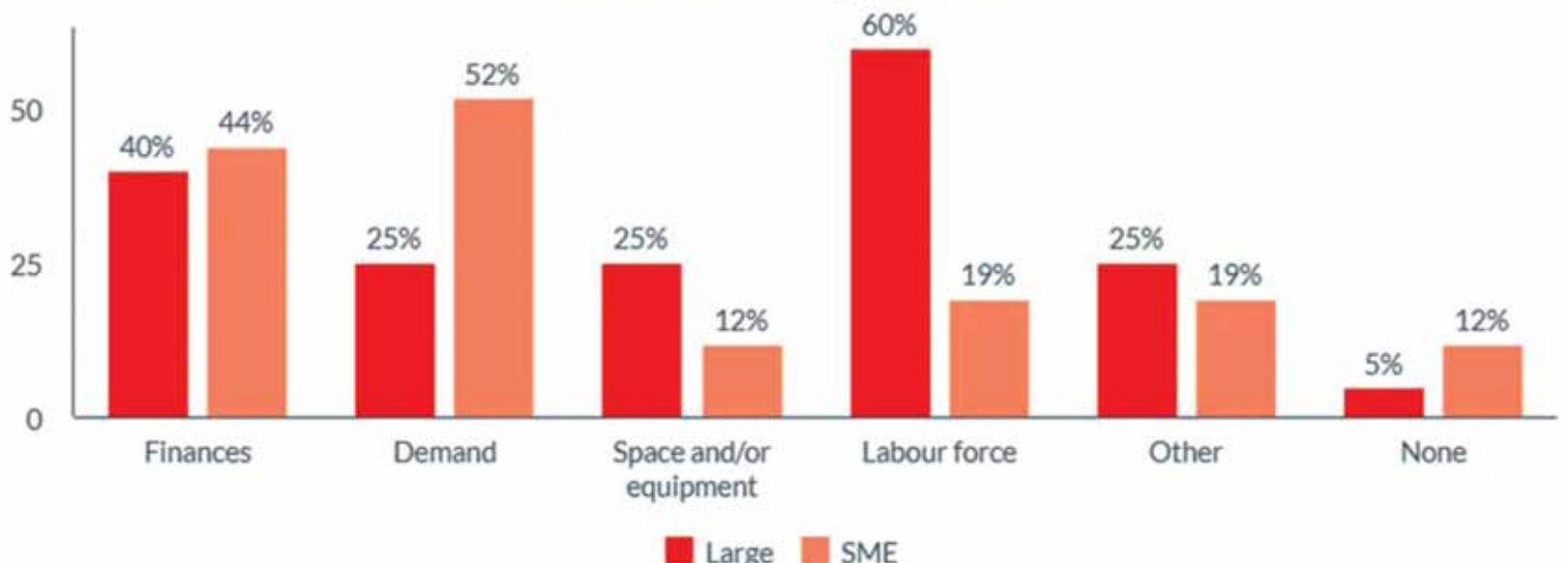
In Q3 2022, lack of a qualified labor force and limited access to financing were the most significant obstacles for large companies. Meanwhile, lack of demand and limited access to financing were indicated as major constraints by SMEs.

It should be noted that the present BCI results may be overestimated, as the survey only covers businesses currently operating and not those that have already exited the market. Firms which exited the market are, to some extent, more likely to demonstrate a negative outlook.

Sales price QoQ change by sector

Sectors	Q3/22	Change
Manufacturing	16.7	-18.5
Construction	38.5	-15.4
Trade	40.5	0.03
Service	27.8	-11.4
Agriculture	55.6	-37.1
Other	23.1	-11.7

WHAT ARE THE MAIN FACTORS CURRENTLY LIMITING YOUR BUSINESS? Q3, 2022



"This is of the Same Scale as Albert Einstein Giving a Lecture on Physics in Tbilisi" - Shalva Breus Hosts the World's Leading Architects in Tbilisi



BY TEAM GT

This is of the same scale as Albert Einstein giving a lecture on physics in Tbilisi -ishow businessman Shalva Breus evaluated the visit of the world's leading architects to Tbilisi. Until it is revealed which of the six visiting architectural offices will lead the process of turning the capital's Mikhailov Hospital into a modern art museum, Breus is taking care of the professional education of future Georgian architects.

Within the program, legendary Pierre de Meuron and Pritzker Prize laureate Shigeru Ban spoke to Georgian students about "historical architecture and the architecture of modern buildings". The winner of the highest prize in architecture also spoke about the process of transforming Mikhailov Hospital into a museum:

"The project of transforming the old hospital into a museum is very interesting and exciting. It is interesting to create a place for young people, their education and creativity. It is a very good opportunity for me to participate in this competition. Today, my goal is to show my creative work. Currently, I am working on the topic of Ukrainian refugees, and I gave a lecture on it," Ban said.

Shalva Breus, the author of the project noted that Georgia's young architects had a unique opportunity to receive professional advice during the talks.

"A fantastic event was held today. Shigeru Ban, Nobel laureate in architecture, gave a lecture to students and young architects. This is an event of the same scale as Albert Einstein giving a lecture on physics in Tbilisi. It is a unique opportunity for young people to learn and listen to such a person," he said.

The lecture "Dialogue" was led by the editor-in-chief of Domus Georgia, architect Lena Kiladze, who in the conversation with us once again emphasized the importance of the visit of architects of such a scale to Georgia.

"The fact that several well-known architectural offices, laureate Shigeru Ban, came to Georgia as part of the competition is a unique opportunity for Georgian society and especially for students, who got to listen to their lectures, see how they work, what their approach is to art and architecture," Kiladze said. "The first stage of this competition [to redesign the Hospital], which we can celebrate with the arrival of these people, is already considered a great success, because their contact with young people is very important."

The meeting was attended by another legend of world architecture, Turkish architect Emre Arolat, whose studio is also a participant in the competition announced by Shalva Breus and fighting for first place.

"It is an important moment for us to be here, to reflect on our thoughts on

the next steps. Creating something that will be completely public is a great opportunity, because it will not only be an art center and a museum, but a space for everyone. This topic was important for our project. We have combined various aspects in one project," said Arolat.

Six contestants are fighting for the chance to transform Mikhailov Hospital into a modern art museum. In the coming days, it will be decided which three contestants will continue to compete. The jury will name the winning project in November.

The international competition was announced for the creation of a modern art museum within the walls of the old Mikhailov Hospital, in which 14 leading architectural companies of the world have taken part. The best six were selected

at the first stage: Archea Associati from Italy (Florence), Christ & Gantenbein from Switzerland, Emre Arolat from Turkey, Shigeru Ban from Japan, Wilmotte & Associés from France and Herzog and De Meuron from Switzerland. In September, three of the named companies will be removed from the competition and three will fight for first place. In the end, the chosen company to take on the project and create one of the main cultural hubs of Tbilisi will be announced in November.

It will take about 10 months to put together the full architectural project, and construction will begin at the end of 2023. The project envisages investing 30 million GEL over five years, and preserving the appearance of the historical monument of the former Mikhailov Hospital.



Tourism Festival Adventure 2022 to be Held in Chiatura

On September 16, 17, and 18, Chiatura is to host the Adventure 2022 international adventure tourism festival. Chiatura is known as a mining town, a manganese ore deposit, but Chiatura is much more than that. Ancient archaeological and cultural monuments, karst caves, temples, and fortresses, Chiatura has everything to make the town one of the most important tourist areas in Georgia.

The Chiatura adventure festival, Adventure 2022, serves this purpose, which, with the initiative and financial support of the "Georgian Manganese" company, will give festival guests the opportunity to engage in various types of extreme sports over the three days of the event.

The festival is free and anyone can participate.

Register and join us: Adventure 2022 - Chiatura Tourism Festival: <https://www.facebook.com/events/804352567248887/804352573915553/>

Lake Mandaeti, hidden in beautiful nature, is waiting for everyone who loves sailing. A camping zone for 100 people will be organized on Mandaeti Lake.

People interested in speleotourism and hiking will have the opportunity to visit the Dzudzuana cave, where the remains of the oldest thread in the world were found, and the Kotia cave, where the first complete skeleton of a Paleolithic man in the Caucasus was discovered. The hike will last 24 hours and the participants will camp in the cave with sleeping bags. A choreographic performance "Dovin Doven Dovli" will be held in the vicinity of the Kotia cave.



The participants of the trek will gather around the bonfire, with torches – just part of the show that the organizers of the project have prepared for the participants.

Adrenaline, dexterity, endurance, observation, speed, flexibility, physical strength,

and fun together - this is rock climbing, for which the climbing route of Katsakhi Sveti and Sveri village is waiting for you. A 25-kilometer bicycle tour and the most exciting high-line show, delicious food and a camping area - all these present the new perspectives of Chiatura.

Within the framework of the festival, there will also be a presentation and discussion about the tourist potential of the town.

The festival will be accompanied musically by TAMADA and Loudspeakers.

The festival is presented by Imereti

Tour, and the initiator and general sponsor is the company "Georgian Manganese." The festival is partnered with Chiatura Municipality City Hall and Sveri Adventure Camp. Supporters: National Tourism Administration of Georgia and DMO Imereti.

The Tower Speaks. Part IV

BLOG BY TONY HANMER

Khalina has been talking to a watchtower in her dreams, learning much and losing something in the process: her precious parchment, ink and quill, eaten up by some of the tower's enemies, the moths. Now, with her new mentor's help, she needed to find more.

Morning came again, and Khalina began to make preparations. She would have to have a plausible reason to go where she must. And something of her own to leave in exchange: a necessary sacrifice for what she was coming to realize was a very important task appointed to her.

She told her mother, after barn chores: "Dede, I'm going to the old church to make an offering." Quite true, if also meaning something different from what the lady thought. "Don't be too long. We have k'ubdari to make for the menfolk for when they get back from the forest, you know." Sighing with pleasure at her easy exit, Khalina hurried up through the narrow stone-walled streets to the magnificently frescoed little local chapel which her area called its own, though it was abandoned and without priest or services. All they had at the moment was tradition, imperfectly recalled from memory and the hearsay of oral hand-me-downs. It was an open secret to the neighbors where the huge old lock's equally ancient key was hidden, and she scabbled with her long thin fingers between the stone blocks. Got it!

In she snuck with a creak and groan of lock and hinges, into the darkness lit only by daylight coming through a single narrow window. The saints in their mag-

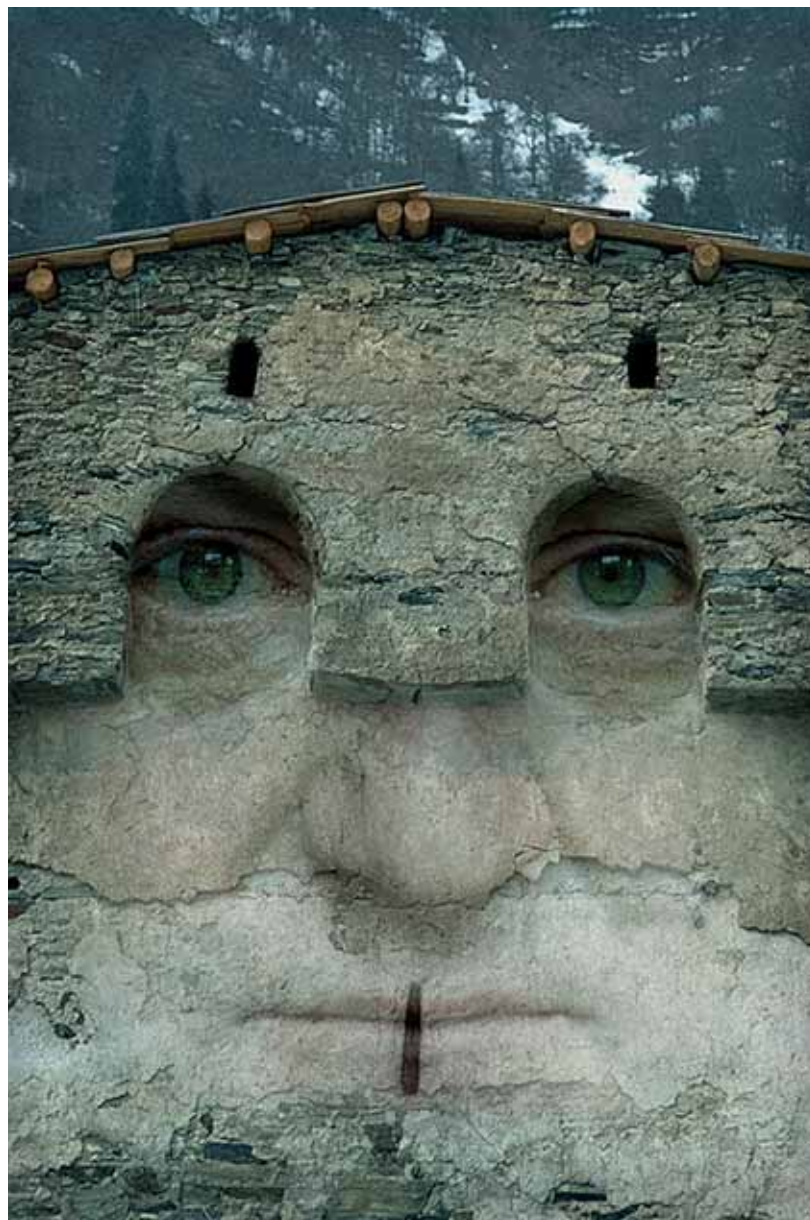
nificent reds, yellows and gilts stared down at her from the curved walls as her eyes adjusted, but this time she had no time for their splendor. Neither was the delicate carving of stone sufficient to move her from her goal, although usually the beauty here was enough to take her very breath away.

But what was this? Not just one arrow, as the Tower had said there would be, but two, pointing in opposite directions. She had no time for these games: someone else could come in at any moment and leave her stuck to explain!

"Think, think! One arrow is of little feathers—they're even still falling from the dome... the other is made of holes being eaten into that carpet right now... How strange! Which one can I trust?" Footsteps passing by reminded her of the urgency to finish before any interruption.

She thought some more, flashing though ideas. "Both arrows seem equally miraculous, and they're being made at the same time, as I watch. They're the same size and shape, but contradictory, so they can't both be right [inventing logic on the fly], nor should they both be wrong, according to what he told me last night. What else could make one right, the other wrong, and WHICH?"

No time to experiment. She chose, followed her choice (unmaking the arrow in the process of her passing), and found a few precious sheets of new parchment flattened together under one of the floor's carpets. Next to them, an eagle feather to be carved into a quill. Fitting them inside her blouse, she lit a nail-thin candle and shot up a lightning-quick prayer of thanks to accompany its twisty rising smoke-tendrils. Just in time: another worshiper was coming in. She left her offering, and fled as innocently as she knew how.



—But how did you know, in the end, which was the right arrow, with so little time to choose and no one to help you!

—Aha! Finally, it came down to an educated guess based on the character of the arrows themselves. One was made of something given at a cost: the little birds' feathers plucked out by their own beaks. The other was formed by destroying something useful: holes in weaving, spoiling it like my own paper and pen were damaged. Still a guess, but less chancy as I look back.

—And what about your sacrifice? What was that?

—My first lessons on writing. It might be said that I don't need them anymore, although they are precious to me as something to give my own children when the time comes. But I can always re-write them, and get some more practice into the bargain, while other young people can now learn from them too. Their content remains in my mind's eye, where no moth can eat it to dust.

—Little one, you delight me with this imagination that you have, and do your race proud. I too, it seems, may have chosen well.

This time, when she stirred at dawn, she began to immortalize everything in her best writing, just as it had come to her. She now knew that her secret lessons had not been in vain. The power of words!

Tony Hanmer has lived in Georgia since 1999, in Svaneti since 2007, and been a weekly writer and photographer for GT since early 2011. He runs the "Svaneti Renaissance" Facebook group, now with nearly 2000 members, at www.facebook.com/groups/SvanetiRenaissance/. He and his wife also run their own guest house in Etseri: www.facebook.com/hanmer.house.svaneti

Hotel 'Utskho' - Place to Find Peace in the Midst of Pine Trees



Newly-opened hotel 'Utskho' is located in the city of Telavi, just four minutes from the center. The hotel is situated in a magnificent area at the edge of the forest below Tsivi Mountain. Utskho fascinates visitors with its fantastic location, and in the yard of the hotel, guests can find peace in the pine trees.

The interior of the hotel is inspired by the loft style. Utskho represents a combination of old and modern design.

"We tried our best to make the environment immensely comfortable for our guests," Tamri Archvadze, the Director of Utskho, tells GEORGIA TODAY.

"We have built the concept of the hotel around the idea that people coming from the noisy city can find peace and calmness at our place. We try to create har-

mony with our interior to bring a peaceful environment for visitors. The location of the hotel itself has a tranquilizing effect due to the visually striking forest," says Tamri.

She pointed out that Telavi itself is a fascinating place year-round, but September is the most important period in Kakheti.

"At this time, the harvest begins, many musical and artistic events are held in Tsinandali, Telavi. There will also be Telavkalakaoba, Erekleoba and so on. The most exciting season is September-October, although Telavi is full of visitors throughout the year," she says.

Activities also take place in the hotel Utskho, and various masterclasses for traditional dishes and folk sweets are held.

"We have planned a very interesting

2/3-day neurography therapy tour, which will give visitors vacationing with us therapeutic practice, through art psychotherapy. It is an extraordinary tour. Then we plan a yoga therapy tour and an exotic tea festival."

In its culinary offerings, the owners of the hotel decided to take a healthy approach and focus on natural food.

"We communicate with local farmers and have negotiations with them to provide us with locally grown products. We want to let our guests experience what is like to taste real Kakhuri barbecue, real Kakhuri dishes. Of course, we have all kinds of dishes, but our main focus is on Kakhuri dishes. Everything is natural here, not only the food we buy from local farmers, but our dishes too consist of healthy food. We do not have a restaurant, we cook healthy house meals,"

says Tamri.

Hotel Utskho also has a conference room, so that small groups can come, rest, relax and work together. Tamri notes that the advantage of the hotel is the family atmosphere and caring staff.

She tells us the future plan to make Utskho a brand, and that they plan to open a small concept hotel in the west, in Bakhmaro.

<https://www.facebook.com/hotelutskho/>



Media Reports: Dispute Between Netflix and Nona Gaprindashvili Settled

The dispute between Netflix and Georgia's renowned chess player Nona Gaprindashvili ended with a settlement, media reports say.

However, the terms of the agreement were not made public. A Netflix spokesperson told Axios that the company is "pleased that the issue has been resolved."

The lawsuit refers to the phrase voiced in the TV series 'The Queen's Gambit' that Nona Gaprindashvili never faced a male chess player.

Gaprindashvili's lawsuit states that the comment is "blatantly false, grossly sexist and derogatory" and that Netflix deliberately lied about Gaprindashvili's accomplishments in a cheap and cynical way to emphasize that its fictional character has managed to do things that other women, including Gaprindashvili, have not.

Nona Gafrindashvili demanded \$5 million from the company as compensation, as well as cutting out that specific section from the TV series.



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THE WORLD AHEAD 2022

