

PM Irakli Gharibashvili talks new scheme for supporting energy projects at government session

By Liza Mchedlidze

The Prime Minister of Georgia Irakli Gharibashvili spoke about the new scheme for supporting energy projects at the government meeting.

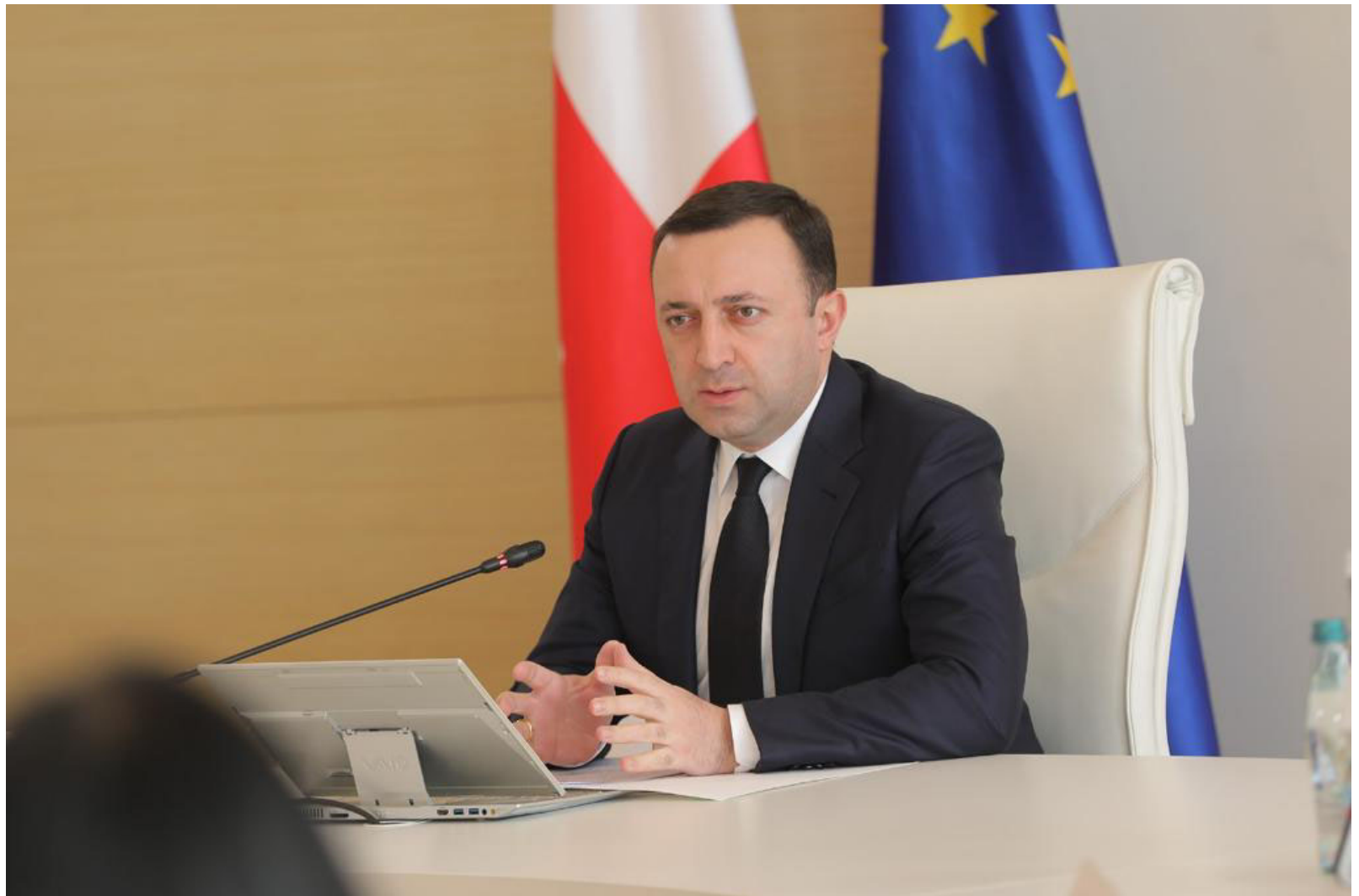
According to him, in the next 3 years, the country expects to invest at least 3 billion dollars in the energy sector.

As he noted, the on-going war and crisis once again demonstrated the need for energy security and energy independence. According to the Prime Minister, Georgia has a lot of resources, especially hydro resources which "needs to be used and utilized as wisely as possible".

"This is our main priority and we have worked actively in this direction for the last few months. We had consultations with the International Monetary Fund and this scheme, which we are presenting to you now, can be said to have been agreed upon, passed, and it will become official in just a few days.

i.e. What do we mean by a new offer, a new scheme - you know that in recent years, the so-called guaranteed purchase scheme has been suspended and memorandums have been issued in this direction for about 800 MW of HPPs, although some have started construction, but these contracts have not been signed, that's one issue.

The second issue - the fate of the new projects was unclear, so to speak, and investors in general needed more clarity, so the new scheme is as follows - the



so-called difference between the prices on the part of the state for 15 years after the power plant was put into operation. With the cfd contract, support for energy projects is implied by the scheme that we will offer to investors.

The new support scheme includes promoting the construction of power plants with a total

capacity of 1,500 MW over the next three years by auction. This does not include, of course, the 800 MW that I already mentioned, and also does not include large projects such as "Namakhvani", "Nenskra" and "Khudon".

That is, in total, only by promoting the construction of this

1,500 MW capacity, we expect an investment of approximately 2.2 billion US dollars. 800 MW projects and other large projects will be added to this, which we will discuss separately.

At least, we can say that during the next 3 years, with the reservation that all these projects will be signed and

launched, we expect at least 3 billion dollars of investment in the energy sector.

This is a very important decision, because, on the one hand, we bring clarity, and on the other hand, I declare that this is our main priority and, of course, investors will have maximum support," said the Prime Minister.

By Liza Mchedlidze

If draft law does not affect Ivanishvili, it does not serve the purpose of 12 recommendations, Ana Natsvlishvili says



One of the leaders of "Lelo", Ana Natsvlishvili, made a statement about the law "On De-Oligarchization" at the committee on legal issues while addressing the majority and she said that the European Union has already considered Ivanishvili as an Oligarch and the discussions regarding this are pointless.

"Are you familiar with the entry in the European Parliament resolution that Georgia has the only Russian oligarch, Ivanishvili? - No matter how much you and I argue, this is already an established fact," she said.

According to Ana Natsvlishvili, the statement of the members of "Georgian Dream" that "the draft law will not affect Ivanishvili" is a direct statement that the draft law on de-oligarchization does not serve to fulfill the 12 recommendations.

"Are you familiar with the resolution of the European Parliament, which was adopted exactly at the time when we accepted the 12-point precondition, are you

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Exchange Rates: US Dollar - 2.7754; Euro - 2.7557; GBP - 3.2009; 100 Russian Ruble - 4.4853; Swiss Franc - 2.7735

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familiar with the record in the resolution of the European Parliament that Geor-

gia has the only Russian oligarch, Ivanishvili?"

No matter how much you and I argue about who is an oligarch, what does an

oligarchy mean, this is an established fact, which is understandably a very painful news for you, Ivanishvili also scolded you for this, but it is already a part of history that he has an honorable place in this register.

The agency, whose recommendations are being implemented, considers the only person to be an oligarch, and no one else. Didn't you tell them that you should make a register here, announce a hunt for tailed deer, and conduct some processes in the parliament? The name and surname of one specific person was very clearly recorded. You may not like it, but this is an already established story.

Also, in this resolution, it was written by the European Parliament that the is-

sue of sanctioning this person should be studied and put on the agenda, both from the side of the European Union and from the side of the democratic partners, which means the rest of the democratic world.

Therefore, even if you enter 150 people in the register of oligarchs in Georgia, the European Union has entered one oligarch in the register and has adopted a political resolution in the context of sanctions.

Accordingly, the draft law that you presented and before presenting which you made a political statement many times that this draft law will not affect Ivanishvili is a direct statement that this draft law does not serve to fulfill the 12 recommendations", said Ana Natsvlishvili.

The News in Brief

PREPARED BY MESSENGER STAFF

Anri Okhanashvili on de-oligarchization bill



The chairman of the legal issues committee Anri Okhanashvili, at the meeting where the initiated law in the first reading "on de-oligarchization" was submitted, said that the task is to end political "speculations and manipulations" and fulfill the recommendations issued by European Union for Georgia's candidate status.

"Regarding de-oligarchization, our task is, on the one hand, to fulfill this record of the 12-point plan in particular, and on the other hand, to put an end to political speculations and manipu-

lations, -" said Anri Okhanashvili.

Okhanashvili emphasized that the issue refers to such a phenomenon as de-oligarchization, regarding which

the only country that has legal regulations for it is Ukraine.

For this reason the Ukrainian option was discussed and presented for discussion within the working group.

"Deriving from the fact that a call was made by the European structures regarding Ukraine regarding the implementation of the law adopted by them, familiarization, discussion and analysis of the Ukrainian model was considered as an objective measure within the working group. That is why we considered the Ukrainian model. Finally, the working group agreed on the issue, including within the framework of different opinions, to present the draft law "on de-oligarchization", Anri Okhanashvili said.

According to him, the issue has become the subject of political speculation among political

parties.

"What is meant and who is meant by the oligarch is being manipulated - it turns out that a specific person was thought up by the European structure in the 12-point plan," added Anri Okhanashvili.

It is unlikely that Georgia receives candidacy status by the end of 2023, Zura Japaridze says

According to Zura Japaridze, the leader of "Girchi-More Freedom", it is very likely that Georgia will receive the status of a candidate country for the European Union by the end of 2023.

As he told the journalists, the actions and statements of "Georgian Dream" are raising ques-



tions in Brussels, which, in his opinion, is not doing anything to fulfill the 12 recommendations of the European Commission.

"The questions are related to the behavior of "Georgian Dream" and the steps they took before and after the rejection of candidate status. These are the questions due to which, with a very high, 99% probability, we

will be denied candidate status at the end of next year. This is the answer to the question "do you want war" from them. We don't want war, we want to fulfill the recommendations, but they won't do it," Japaridze said.

In addition, he also responded to the process of selecting a new public defender and said that the government will most likely select the candidate they want for this position.

"I do not believe that this government will give up any democratic institution and give it independence and freedom. The nature of this government is such that all points of power must be fully controlled, among them it may not be so problematic in terms of loss of power, but I think they will assign their own candidate to this position as well", Japaridze said.

EU4Environment trains experts from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia and Moldova to test wastewater for COVID-19

With the support of the 'EU4Environment - Water and Environmental Data' project, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia and the Republic of Moldova have developed a COVID-19 monitoring concept and conducted pilot analyses in urban wastewater.

In September 2022, the SarsCov-2 virus was analysed for the first time in wastewater samples from Yerevan, Baku, Tbilisi and Chisinau. The sampling, analysis and evaluation concept was developed with the support of the European Union. Experts from the Austrian Environment Agency and the Vienna University of Technology provided guidance on the development of procedures and allowed the first analysis of COVID-19 in wastewater in each of the countries.

Over the coming months, European experts will help the programme partners in the Eastern Partnership countries to implement the practice on a permanent basis and train them in interpreting the data. In paral-

lel, sampling will be expanded to increase the coverage of COVID-19 monitoring. This will improve pandemic monitoring for overall health protection in each country and even internationally.

(euneighbourseast.eu)



Weather

Tuesday, November 1

Day Partly Cloudy
High: 15°C

Night Partly Cloudy
Low: 7°C

Wednesday, November 2

Day Partly Cloudy
High: 15°C

Night Partly Cloudy
Low: 5°C

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