

TI: Anti-corruption reform doesn't respond to European Commission recommendation

By Liza Mchedlidze

“Transparency International - Georgia” published the assessment of the anti-corruption bill of the majority.

The organization noted that the planned reform does not include either bringing together various key anti-corruption functions, creating a guarantee of real independence, or fighting against cases of high-level corruption.

TI called on Parliament and the management team to reconsider their approach to Recommendation 4 and to do everything possible to ensure that this recommendation is considered implemented.

“On October 26, the Legal Affairs Committee of the Parliament of Georgia introduced a draft law, which provides for the creation of a new structure - the Anti-Corruption Bureau of the State Public Prosecutor's Office. The stated goal of the authors of the draft law is to fulfill the 4th point of the 12 recommendations issued by the European Commission to grant Georgia the status of a candidate for EU membership.

According to the draft law, the function of the new agency will be to promote the fight against corruption, which it will implement by creating documents defining the anti-corruption policy, and coordinating and supervising their implementation. The head of the bureau will be appointed by the Prime Minister of Georgia.

According to “Transparency International - Georgia”, the proposed reform does not respond to



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the 4th recommendation issued by the European Commission, which asks the country to:

“Strengthen the independence of the anti-corruption agency, which will handle all key anti-corruption functions; In particular, carefully resolve cases of high-level corruption.

The planned reform does not include the consolidation of various key anti-corruption functions, the creation of a guarantee of real independence, or the fight against cases of high-level corruption. It implies, only and only, the separation of the functions of the secretariat of the National Anti-corruption Council, which currently exists in the

government administration, into a separate LSI, which is missing the request of the European Commission. In addition, the announced reform does not respond to the challenges facing the country in relation to corruption – the growth of high-level corruption and the deepening of state capture.

Therefore, only the implementation of the proposed reform cannot be considered as the implementation of the recommendation, which may deprive the country of the possibility of obtaining the candidate status. Therefore, we call on the Parliament and the management team to reconsider the approach they

have chosen regarding the 4th recommendation and to do everything to ensure that this recommendation is considered implemented,” the statement reads.

In order to achieve this goal, “Transparency International” recommended the consideration of the “Lelo” party’s draft law.

“To achieve this goal, it is possible to use the draft law initiated by the deputies of the political party “Lelo for Georgia” in January 2022 or the ideas used in it. The said bill envisages the creation of an independent, multifunctional and investigative national anti-corruption agency, which would directly and fully satisfy the 4th recommendation

of the European Commission.

Until the end of 2022, there is still enough time to fully satisfy the recommendations given to Georgia by the European Commission, which will bring the country the status of a candidate for EU membership and strengthen its democratic future.

Accordingly, we call on “Georgian Dream” not to miss this historic opportunity and to do everything so that even the most skeptical party does not have any questions as to whether Georgia has fulfilled any of the European Commission’s recommendations,” TI’s statement reads.



ODIHR meets with ‘UNM’ and ‘Reforms Group’ in Parliament of Georgia

By Liza Mchedlidze

“United National Movement” faction chairman, Khatia Dekanoidze and deputy chairman of the faction, Levan Bezhashvili met with representatives of the Office of Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR). The information was released by the Parliament of Georgia press service.

According to their report, the members of the parliament

talked with the guests about the draft amendments to the election code prepared by the opposition and emphasized the importance of implementing the recommendations of the OSCE/ODIHR and the European Union.

“One of the main 12-point recommendations of the European Union is the amendments to the Election Code. This is important not only for the country, but also

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Exchange Rates: US Dollar - 2.7676; Euro - 2.7491; GBP - 3.1944; 100 Russian Ruble - 4.5018; Swiss Franc - 2.7868

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for the return of citizens' confidence in elections. We have prepared such changes that we con-

sider important to implement the recommendations. The changes to the electoral legislation, which were prepared by the opposition, are specifically in line with the

recommendations that the OSCE/ODIHR presented. It is important that the amendments to the election code, which are identical to the recommendations of the OSCE/ODIHR, are taken into account", said the chairman of the faction, Khatia Dekanoidze.

ODIHR also met with the members of the Reforms Group in the Parliament.

According to the press service of the Parliament, the parties talked about the current situation in the country and the implementation of the recom-

mendations provided by the 12-point plan established by the European Union.

According to Paata Manjgaladze, a member of the Reforms Group, the members of the political group at the meeting emphasized the importance of granting Georgia the status of a candidate for EU membership and expressed their readiness to support all the initiatives related to the implementation of the recommendations.

"Questions from the guests were related to the problems in the election process. After

Charles Michel's document, Georgian Dream made such changes to the election code, which gives them the opportunity to have an acting chairman of the Central Election Commission for life. We introduced our package of changes to the representatives of the democratic institutions and human rights office of the OSCE, where this problem is corrected. We expressed our position that Georgia definitely needs to be granted candidate status," Paata Manjgaladze said.

The News in Brief

PREPARED BY MESSENGER STAFF

Sergey Lavrov promises occupied South Ossetia to maintain 'peace' with help of Russian military base



The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Russia, Sergey Lavrov, at the meeting with the so-called Minister of Foreign Affairs of South Ossetia, Akhsar Jioev said that the so-called Republic of South Ossetia will actively be supported by Russia in the implementation of the socio-economic development program.

"We are glad to welcome you to Moscow as the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of South Ossetia. Our political dialogue continues to develop intensively," Lavrov said at the beginning of the meeting with the de facto minister.

Sergey Lavrov also recalled

the meeting with so-called President Alan Gagloev on June 15, and talked about "established contacts" between Russia and the de facto Republic.

"We have established regular contacts with the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, presidential administrations, as well as at the parliamentary level, and preparations are currently underway

for the visit of the Chairman of the Parliament of the Republic Alan Alborov to Moscow, at the invitation of the Chairman of the State Council of the Russian Federation Vyacheslav Volodin," Lavrov said.

In addition, according to Lavrov, investment projects are being implemented successfully.

"Recently, the socio-economic development program of the Republic of South Ossetia was adopted. We will actively help you to implement it," Lavrov said at the meeting.

"We appreciate your balanced and objective position regarding what is happening within the framework of a special military operation, in the matter of declaring the independence of two republics and two regions. We cooperate in the field of security. Russian military bases reliably ensure the security of the Republic of South Ossetia. Employees

of the Border Department of the Federal Security Service of Russia are working on the borders," Lavrov said.

Russian Occupation forces illegally detain 3 Georgian citizens

Representatives of the Russian occupation forces illegally detained three citizens of Georgia near the village of Mejvriskhevi in Gori municipality, the State Security Service of Georgia released the information.

According to the agency's explanation, upon receiving the information about the illegal detention, the State Security Ser-



vice activated the "hot line" operating through the EU monitoring mission.

Information about the incident was immediately provided to the international partners and the co-chairs of the international discussions in Geneva.

According to the State Security Service of Georgia, the central government of Georgia has activated all the mechanisms at its disposal to release illegally detained persons in the shortest possible time.

"The harmful practice of illegal detentions restricts the fundamental right to free movement, significantly worsens the security environment on the ground and threatens stability in the region.

"Responsibility for the destructive actions committed in the occupied territories of Georgia, as well as in the vicinity of the occupation line, rests with the occupying power," State Security Service of Georgia writes.

Energy efficiency for sustainable development

UNDP's Accelerator Lab reveals contest winners for energy-efficient inventions

Tbilisi, 1 November 2022 – Over 75 innovators, inventors, businesses, startups and initiative groups joined the contest for energy-efficient inventions announced by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in July. The contest revealed everyday solutions that help reduce dependency on fossil fuels, increase the use of renewables and explore innovative ways to save energy and monitor its consumption.

Germany and Qatar supported the initiative as part of their broader assistance to UNDP's Accelerator Lab.

Nick Beresford, UNDP Resident Representative in Georgia, Lidija Christmann, Head of Development Cooperation at the Embassy of Germany in Georgia, and Nasser Saad Al-Nuaimi, Second Secretary of the

Embassy of the State of Qatar in Georgia, announced the winners on 1 November at an awards event attended by representatives of civil society, educational institutions, international organizations and the private sector.

Authors of the five best ideas received GEL20,000 each to prototype and shape their inventions and fast-track their development:

An electricity generating system equipped with a hydro turbine. Author: Merab Chiraqadze

A smart energy metre to monitor and regulate expenditures on electricity and gas. Author: Lasha Khutsishvili

Vertical farming with a consolidated soil system. Author: Jacob Bitsadze

A car equipped with a

solar refrigerator for transporting agricultural produce. Authors: Eliso Ghviniashvili, Nikoloz Medulashvili, Sulokhan Saladze

Energy efficient bricks. Authors: Amiran Grdzlishvili, Merab Baratashvili

"UNDP warmly welcomes the exceptional creativity and motivation shown by the contest participants. Their work points us to a greener, smarter and more sustainable future," Beresford said.

"Germany is one of the world's top countries in promoting renewable energy and energy efficiency. We are pleased to help Georgia unlock its renewable energy potential, raise public awareness about green energy and support innovation and people-driven solutions," Christmann said.

Weather

Wednesday, November 2

Day Partly Cloudy High: 15°C

Night Partly Cloudy Low: 5°C

Thursday, November 3

Day Partly Cloudy High: 17°C

Night Partly Cloudy Low: 8°C

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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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