

## Senator Jeanne Shaheen: 'Help us to help you get EU candidate status in December'



BY LIZA MCHEDLIDZE

US Senator Jeanne Shaheen called on the Government of Georgia to "help us to help you get EU candidate status in December."

As Jeanne Shaheen stated, the gov-

ernment of Georgia can achieve progress in the implementation of reforms by conducting an inclusive process with opposition parties and civil society.

"I understand that the Georgian people, who overwhelmingly support EU membership, were disappointed that

Ukraine and Moldova were granted EU candidate status, but not Georgia. Georgia has made great progress in implementing critical reforms to advance Euro-Atlantic aspirations, but there remain some areas that require progress. I am sure that the government of Georgia can

achieve progress in the implementation of these reforms by conducting an inclusive process with the opposition parties and civil society," said Shaheen.

Senator Jeanne Shaheen talked about the need to implement the recommendations of the European Union and said that it will not be easy, but the implementation of reforms is "the best chance to ensure an economically prosperous and democratic future for the Georgian people."

"The Georgian people feel vulnerable, and I know there is support in the United States to do everything we can to help the Georgian government move forward with inclusive reform efforts. Our message is: "Help us to help you" to get EU candidate status in December.

"The largest part of US funding goes to "NGOs", so it is less interesting for us - "Non-Governmental Organizations" should worry about it," Irakli Kobakhidze, chairman of the "Georgian Dream" party, said this responding to Senator Jeanne Shaheen statement regarding the revision of the issue of financing for Georgia.

According to him, Shaheen's statement on the current situation in Georgia was an unfair criticism and it has no value.

"As for unfair criticism, it has no value for us. Only criticism that has a concrete basis can have a price. In this case, we once again heard unfair criticism, and such criticism will not cost us. "NGOs" will be financed or not, "NGOs" should worry about it." Irakli Kobakhidze said.

## Pawel Herczynski discusses European Commission's visit to Georgia

BY LIZA MCHEDLIDZE

EU Ambassador to Georgia H.E. Pawel Herczynski discussed European Commissioner Olivér Várhelyi's visit to Georgia.

"In relation to the implementation of the 12 recommendations, the European Commissioner very clearly told everyone he met that a national consensus is needed, which means inclusiveness on the part of the government and constructive involvement on the part of the opposition," EU Ambassador said.

According to him, it was a very good visit.

"European Commissioner Várhelyi came to Georgia for the first time as a European Commissioner who is responsible not only for neighborhood policy, but also for enlargement issues. After EU leaders gave Georgia a European perspective in the summer, the door to the EU has opened and now Georgia must prove that it is ready to take the next steps.

During the visit, the European Commissioner focused on two main issues, namely - the 12 priorities (recommendations) of the European Commission for Georgia and the European Investment Plan.

Regarding the implementation of the



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Exchange Rates: US Dollar - 2.7272; Euro - 2.8207; GBP - 3.2334; 100 Russian Ruble - 4.5198; Swiss Franc - 2.8738

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12 priorities, the European Commissioner made it very clear to everyone he met that a national consensus is needed, which

means inclusiveness on the part of the government and constructive engagement on the part of the opposition.

The European Commissioner emphasized that cooperation between all parties

is necessary to take the next steps.

During the discussions held within the framework of the European investment plan, the main emphasis was placed on projects in the fields of communication

and energy. We have to speed up their implementation and I really hope that we will have concrete results soon. Results that will benefit both Georgia and the European Union," the Ambassador said.

## The News in Brief

PREPARED BY MESSENGER STAFF

### President of Georgia visits United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland



President of Georgia Salome Zourabichvili paid a working visit to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. The President's administration released information about this.

According to the press release, the President of Georgia delivered a lecture in Oxford at the "Oxford Union" as part of the annual series of "Benazir Bhutto Memorial Lecture". The president of Georgia will be met and hosted by the president of the union Ahmed Nawaz in Oxford Union.

"The Oxford Union "Benazir Bhutto Memorial Lecture" was founded by the Prime Minister of Great Britain, Theresa May, and she and David Cameron have

given lectures within the cycle. In addition, former British Prime Minister Boris Johnson was one of the presidents of the Union.

Within the framework of the working visit, the President of Georgia will par-

ticipate in the London international conference "Globalize UK 2022". The president will attend the autumn test match of the rugby, Welsh and Georgian national teams in the city of Cardiff," it is mentioned in the published information.

### Minister of Finance: Economic and social effects will be assessed in advance on projects starting in 2023, the value of which exceeds 20 million GEL

The Minister of Finance, Lasha Khutsishvili, while talking about the reform of state investment management,

said that all those projects that will start in 2023 and whose value exceeds 20 million GEL, a preliminary assessment will be carried out, which includes the preliminary determination of both the economic and social effects of the project.

According to him, within the framework of the technical assistance of the International Monetary Fund and the

methodology defines specific criteria for which projects will be subject to mandatory preliminary assessment.

Along with the budget, with the presented legislative amendments, it becomes mandatory to present the preliminary assessment results along with the budget for all new investment projects that comply with the criteria defined by



World Bank, the investment project management methodology will be updated by the end of 2022.

"The methodology includes the full cycle of project pre-selection, evaluation, budgeting, implementation and post-completion evaluation. The updated

the updated methodology and are reflected in the budget draft," said Lasha Khutsishvili.

According to the Minister of Finance Lasha Khutsishvili, this reform will significantly increase the efficiency of our capital expenditures.

### EU-Ukraine strategic partnership on raw materials: EBRD to support digitalisation of geological data in Ukraine

The European Bank of Reconstruction and Development



(EBRD) and the Ukrainian Geological Survey have signed a Memorandum of Understanding, aiming to facilitate the

modernisation of geodata management in Ukraine.

By digitalising geological data, including documents and maps, the EU will help Ukraine improve governance, transparency, regulation as well as access for investors.

"This is a truly impressive development under the EU-Ukrainian strategic partnership on raw materials, given the fact that the war still rages in Ukraine. Raw materials, critical for green and digital economies, can be found in abundance in Ukraine, which holds deposits of some 20 out of 30 such

materials," European Commission Vice-President for Interinstitutional Relations and Foresight Maroš Šefcovic said. "By integrating Ukraine in EU value chains, we will diversify our supplies, strengthen our industrial base, while helping reconstruct Ukraine's war-torn economy. This will also contribute to our efforts to prevent raw materials from being weaponized."

The document was signed in the context of the EU Raw Materials Week 2022 which is taking place from 14 to 18 November. (euneighbourseast.eu)

## Weather

Friday, November 18

Day Partly Cloudy  
High: 17°C

Night Partly Cloudy  
Low: 6°C

Saturday, November 19

Day Partly Cloudy  
High: 19°C

Night Clear  
Low: 8°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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*On the occasion of the 33<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of the Velvet Revolution, the Ambassador of the Slovak Republic to Georgia H.E. Mr. Pavel Vizdal held a Reception on November 16.*







