

Shalva Papuashvili calls David Kramer's statement 'direct attack' on government elected by Georgian people

By Liza Mchedlidze

Speaker of the Parliament of Georgia Shalva Papuashvili responded to the statement of the former US Assistant Secretary of State David Kramer, according to which sanctions should start with Bidzina Ivanishvili and sanctions should be imposed on those who follow Ivanishvili's orders. Papuashvili called the statement "a direct attack on the government elected by the Georgian people."

According to Shalva Papuashvili, the term "Oligarchy" rising in Georgian reality, was ultimately aimed at "attacking the Georgian government".

"He who attacks the government elected by the people of Georgia cannot be a friend of the Georgian people, this is an axiom, therefore, this is how we should look at the whole situation. To observe how the term 'oligarchy' originated in Georgian reality, how it developed, what interest was behind it, to make a certain 'cliché' of this or that person. All this was ultimately aimed at launching an attack on the Georgian government," said Papuashvili.

When asked whose interests may be behind the attempt to weaken the Georgian government, Shalva Papuashvili responded with "the radical part of the opposition and their supporters inside the country or outside".

"This is a common policy, which we can see even now, that in fact, the radical part of the opposition and their supporters inside and outside the country are holding the European future of Georgia hostage, and they are trying to trade for the weakening of the Georgian government.



This is the desire to replace the government elected by the people, which is worse around, to somehow bypass democracy. We remember how the situation was after the elections. When they don't get the mandate, they can't get the people's support, but they try to bypass

the elections to get power, and that's why they want to weaken the government elected by the Georgian people and bring in the government that the people of Georgia have already rejected nine times. Because of the authoritarian regime they established, these are the real reasons.

Be it oligarchy, state capture, or other terms, these groups brought them to Georgia in order to discredit the country and influence the change of government in an undemocratic way," said Shalva Papuashvili.

Parliamentary majority has yet to specify whether they will send the draft law 'on de-oligarchization' to Venice Commission

By Liza Mchedlidze



The ruling majority of the Parliament of Georgia has yet to specify whether they will send the draft law 'on de-oligarchization' adopted by the Parliament in two readings to the Venice Commission for a conclusion, and in this regard, whether they will take into account the recommendation of the EU representative and European Commissioner Olivér Várhelyi.

In response to a relevant question, the first deputy chairman of the Parliament's Legal Affairs Committee, Davit Matikashvili, emphasized that the draft law in the Venice Commission was sent by the Ukrainian Parliament, the Georgian law is similar to the Ukrainian one, and recently it became known that the Ukrainian side withdrew the law adopted by it from the Venice Commission.

"Regarding the draft law on 'de-oligarchization', we were waiting for a

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Exchange Rates: US Dollar - 2.7192; Euro - 2.7951; GBP - 3.2255; 100 Russian Ruble - 4.4808; Swiss Franc - 2.8491

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conclusion on the Ukrainian model similar to the Georgian model. Recently, it became known from the US ambassador that the project was withdrawn by the

Ukrainian side, which, by the way, the EU ambassador did not say. We got this information from the US Ambassador. It is a fact that the high-ranking officials of the European Commission made a very high opinion on this draft law.

“A bold step” - that’s how the European Commissioner assessed the Ukrainian draft law, which says it all. The Ukrainian side was even given the obligation to implement the law it adopted when it was granted the status of a candidate for

the European Union. The Georgian side adopted a project similar to the Ukrainian draft law so that additional political insinuations would not appear,” said Davit Matikashvili.

The News in Brief

PREPARED BY MESSENGER STAFF

President Zourabichvili on Week of Regions: 'None of the officials came or did not dare to come'



On November 21, President Salome Zourabichvili opened the “Week of Regions” in the Orbeliani Palace, which began with Days of Svaneti. At the opening, she noted that the event has nothing to do with politics, despite this, regional officials did not attend.

“I am surprised that no one from the region either came from the officials or didn’t dare to come... from the officials who should be interested in the development of our regions, there are none here

either... We will also invite other regions. I hope that their officials will be a little more active and they will be afraid to come here, this palace belongs to everyone, I always say and emphasize this, it is not mine, it is not related to me...”

“Regions in the Palace of Orbeliani” was opened on November 21 with ‘Svaneti

Days’. It will last three days.

According to the president’s administration, the purpose of establishing the week is to promote the development of regions, to present the economic and cultural potential, to highlight the diversity of regions and to promote them both locally and internationally.

For three days, the Orbeliani Palace will be hosted by the local population of Svaneti, who will present both traditional crafts and works of modern Svan artists.

Scientific, educational and cultural events are also planned.

‘It is important that the ‘de-oligarchization’ bill be reviewed by the Venice Commission’, Kelly Degnan says



US Ambassador to Georgia Kelly Degnan said that the opinion of the EU delegation that the recommendations of the Venice Commission should be considered before the ‘de-oligarchization’ law is adopted is very important advice.

“Of course, this is very good advice when it comes from the EU delegation,

which is working with Georgia on these necessary recommendations. It will be very important and valuable that the legal experts of the Venice Commission review the draft law before its adoption.

... Receiving the opinion of European legal experts will be a useful step for the Georgian government and parliament before adopting the de-oligarchization

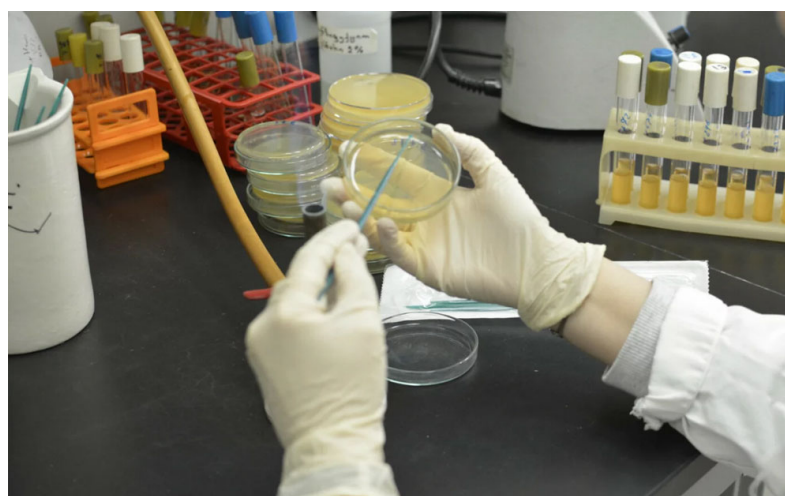
law,” he said.

The EU representation in Georgia issued a brief comment regarding the ‘de-oligarchization’ bill. According to their assessment, before the adoption of this law, the conclusion of the Venice Commission should be requested and implemented.

EU drugs agency releases new findings on drug market in Eastern partner countries

The emergence of new drug trafficking routes, the expansion of online markets, and the availability of a broader spectrum of substances, are among the findings highlighted in a new report published by the EU drugs agency (European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction/EMCDDA).

According to the Agency, the



Eastern Partnership region is a significant transit area for illicit drugs, as several major trafficking routes flow through it. Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine border the EU and are on the

northern heroin trafficking route to Europe. Meanwhile, the Southern Caucasus countries, Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia, are situated near Afghanistan, the global centre for opium

and heroin production and a recently emerging area of methamphetamine production. Two major heroin trafficking routes from Afghanistan (Balkan and Northern routes) impact on the region.

The EMCDDA says there are reports of a decline in heroin use in the ENP-East region and an increase in the use of synthetic opioids (e.g. ‘street’ methadone), especially in Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine. Also, cocaine use and seizures appear to be low in the region.

“A key regional development appears to be the expansion of online drug markets. These markets now play a more important role in the sale and purchase of drugs in Armenia, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and, until recently, Ukraine,” says

the Agency.

Another report conclusion is that organised criminal networks play a role in the production of synthetic drugs in some countries in the region. This includes Azerbaijan, where methamphetamine production appears to have been scaled up since 2018.

The findings are based on EMCDDA-funded studies implemented between 2019 and 2022, including over 100 qualitative interviews carried out with stakeholders in the two regions. Interviewees included customs and security officers, healthcare providers, researchers, NGOs, representatives of government and international organisations.

(euneighbourseast.eu)

Weather

Wednesday, November 23

Day Partly Cloudy

High: 17°C

Night Clear

Low: 4°C

Thursday, November 24

Day Clear

High: 15°C

Night Clear

Low: 4°C

published by

The Messenger

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