

BY LIZA MCHEDLIDZE

## Kobakhidze criticizes MEPs who call Ivanishvili 'oligarch'

Chairman of Georgian Dream Irakli Kobakhidze has responded to the conference held by European Parliamentarian Anna Fotiga regarding Georgia and said that the statements made there 'have no value'.

Kobakhidze also called on the public to "be attentive to each message of such people."

"First of all, the evaluation of these people, the statement has no value. We know very well what motivates these people, and most importantly, we know that the good of our country does not motivate these people. Therefore, society should evaluate all their messages. There is some kind of global war party that wants to disrupt the peace in Georgia, the second front, and behind such conversations there are relevant interests, desires, and it is important that the society be attentive to each message of such people," said Kobakhidze.

The MEPs also highlighted the oligarchy of Bidzina Ivanishvili, to which Kobakhidze said that "every person inside or outside the country who talks about this is an agent of the war party."

"When specific people call Bidzina Ivanishvili an oligarch, demand his sanctioning, it is not only an unfair statement, assessment, it is dirt, and whoever does this is in the service of dirt. There is a simple explanation for this - all people inside the country, outside, who say "Bidzina Ivanishvili is an oligarch and should be sanctioned, is an agent. I will say this directly, everyone who says this is usually an agent of the war party," said Kobakhidze.



"Oligarch, Russian Connections, War in Ukraine and the Future of Georgia" conference was held in Brussels, where former US Ambassador to Georgia Ian Kelly, Florida International University researcher and former State Department official

David Kramer and Anna Fotiga discussed the influence of Bidzina Ivanishvili in Georgia. They talked about the country's from the European course.

Ian Kelly noted that the attacks of the Georgian authorities on the US and the West "force

them to think about the issue of supporting Georgia's Euro-Atlantic aspirations".

David Kramer responded to the position of the Georgian government on the ongoing war in Ukraine and noted that "Georgia is obliged to stand by Ukraine."

Also, after the conference, they emphasized that there is a clear desire of Georgian citizens to join the European family. Anna Fotiga expressed her hope that "dream will understand people's desire to join the European family as soon as possible."

## Court orders TV Pirveli and journalist Maia Mamulashvili to pay 15,000 GEL for Kakha Kaladze



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The Tbilisi City Court ordered TV Pirveli and TV anchor Maia Mamulashvili to pay 15,000 GEL as a payment for moral damage to the Mayor of Tbilisi, Kakha Kaladze.

In addition, according to the court's decision, the TV company must deny the information spread about Kaladze, that he received 60 million from the tenders.

The court partially satisfied the lawsuit of Kakha Kaladze - the mayor of Tbilisi demanded 100,000 GEL for moral damages.

The lawsuit was related to the information spread on July 5, 2022 by Maia Mamulashvili in the author's program Day News, that Kakha Kaladze 'pocketed'

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Exchange Rates: US Dollar - 2.7177; Euro - 2.8161; GBP - 3.2618; 100 Russian Ruble - 4.4526; Swiss Franc - 2.8604

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60 million from tenders and through corruption.

According to Maia Mamulashvili, the purpose of Kakha Kaladze's appeal to the court was to cause financial damage to her and the TV company.

After the court session, Kakha Kaladze's lawyer Dimitri Gabunia stated that they are satisfied with this decision.

"This precedent is very important. We are satisfied, of course, because our lawsuit was satisfied and the fact was established that journalist Mamulashvili spread false information through TV Pirveli - she lied about the theft of 60 million GEL

by Kaladze, and this was confirmed by the court's decision," he said.

The lawyer of "TV Pirveli" said that this decision sets a very dangerous precedent and poses a threat to freedom of expression. "This is a continuation of the

dangerous trend that we have seen for two years now in court, when defamation lawsuits from government officials are being filed en masse and settled. In the present case, the court had no legal basis to grant this claim.

The court did not take into

account the risks to freedom of expression that such a decision entails. This is a direct message to the civil society not to talk about the government and not to criticize it," said Mari Kapanadze, a lawyer of the TV company.

### The News in Brief

PREPARED BY MESSENGER STAFF

#### De-facto President of South Ossetia Alan Gagloev arrives in Russia-occupied Melitopol, Ukraine



The de facto president of the occupied South Ossetia, Alan Gagloev, arrived in the Russia occupied part of Ukraine.

As the head of the press service of the de facto president told the Russian media, Gagloev met the 4th military base in the occupied Melitopol in Zaporizhia and handed over military equipment.

According to Natalya Bosikova, among the military equipment and equipment given by Gagloev to compatriots were quadcopters, thermal vision equipment, winter equipment, first aid equipment, etc.

"From the very first day of the start of the special operation, the head of state is in constant contact with the fighters who left Ossetia and knows the situation well, knows what they need the most," Bosikova told Russian pro-Kremlin media.

According to various open sources, to-

gether with the occupation forces of Russia, the military from the Tskhinvali region are also taking part in the war against Ukraine. More than 20 of them have already died in Ukraine.

#### Shalva Papuashvili meets with the Chairman of the Legal Affairs Committee of the German Bundestag

The Chairman of the Parliament of Georgia Shalva Papuashvili met with the

Chairman of the Legal Affairs Committee of the Federal Republic of Germany Elisabeth Winkelmeier-Becker.

According to the press service of the Parliament of Georgia, at the meeting, Shalva Papuashvili expressed his gratitude for the support of the European future from Germany.

"The Chairman of the Parliament spoke in detail about the implementation of the recommendations of the European Union by Georgia, in particular, about the progress of rapprochement with the legislation of the European Union.

The parties emphasized the importance of deepening the ties between the

parliamentary committees. It was noted that Germany is ready to provide assistance to Georgia in terms of legislative harmonization with the European Union and law-making expertise.

Elisabeth Winkelmeier-Becker noted that Germany will continue to support Georgia on the path to joining the European Union and expressed readiness to share Germany's experience. The parliamentary delegation of Georgia under the leadership of the Speaker of the Parliament, Shalva Papuashvili, is holding bilateral meetings with high political officials in the capital of Germany within the framework of the visit.



#### EU proposes to set up special court for Russia's war crimes and use Russian frozen assets for Ukraine's recovery

#### Weather

Thursday, December 1

Day Light Rain  
High: 5°C

Night Light Rain  
Low: 3°C

Friday, December 2

Day Light Rain  
High: 6°C

Night Light Rain  
Low: 4°C



The European Commission today proposed to set up a

specialised court, backed by the United Nations, to investigate

and prosecute Russia's crime of aggression against Ukraine.

"Russia must pay for its horrific crimes, including for its crime of aggression against a sovereign state. We are ready to start working with the international community to get the broadest international support possible for this specialised court," said European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, announcing this proposal.

She also announced that the European Commission intends to create in a short time a structure to legally manage Russian assets blocked or frozen in the

EU due to sanctions and invest them.

"Russia must also pay financially for the devastation that it caused. The damage suffered by Ukraine is estimated at •600 billion. Russia and its oligarchs have to compensate Ukraine for the damage and cover the costs for rebuilding the country," said von der Leyen.

She added that the EU has blocked Euro 300 billion of Russian Central Bank reserves and frozen Euro 19 billion of Russian oligarchs' money, which the EU could use to rebuild Ukraine.

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