

Anaklia Development Consortium calls govt's decision of Anaklia Port construction 'absurd'

BY LIZA MCHEDLIDZE

Anaklia Development Consortium responded to the statement made by Prime Minister Irakli Gharibashvili at the government meeting regarding the Anaklia Port construction plan of which 51% will be owned by the state and government plans on announcing the invitation of tender to attract investment.

According to the consortium, during the speech regarding the Anaklia port project, Prime Minister Gharibashvili gave a lot of false information about the Anaklia project and its past history.

"Yesterday, Irakli Gharibashvili presented a future plan related to the Anaklia project, which has not been successful.

We would like to remind the Prime Minister that an arbitration dispute is ongoing between the Anaklia Development Consortium and the Government of Georgia at the Geneva International Chamber of Commerce. He will have to answer for all the false statements made today," the consortium said.

The statement highlighted some of the most 'dramatically false and misleading points' in the Prime Minister's speech.

Consortium called the idea that the Georgian state could find a serious private investor for the port of Anaklia while planning to take a 51% controlling interest in the project, an 'absurd'.



According to them, It is quite clear that the government has not been able to find a suitable investor or port operator willing to undertake this project amid the ongoing arbitration dispute and a politicized Georgian judicial system that the government has failed to reform.

The consortium assessed the government's intention to invest USD 300 million in the Anaklia

port project in the form of cash from the budget or other public funds, as 'unbelievable' as "they have refused to even provide 50 million USD as a guarantee" (not cash) to facilitate ADC to build the port in obtaining financing.

Anaklia Development Consortium's press release reads that the idea that the Prime Minister wants the government to "urgently" proceed with the

Anaklia project is 'clearly false'.

According to them, the government has 'done nothing for almost three years after the termination of the Anaklia project' and in February 2020 they even said that they would announce an invitation to tender "within two weeks."

They called Prime Minister Irakli Gharibashvili's statements about Anaklia's develop-

ment plans 'insincere' and 'absurd'.

The consortium said that they want to see the development of Anaklia port "plain and simple."

"This latest government scheme has no chance of success and we think the government knows it. This is another case where the government stops and wants to blame others for its failure," the statement reads.

Family of Mikheil Saakashvili together with MEPs hold briefing at European Parliament

BY LIZA MCHEDLIDZE



The members of Mikheil Saakashvili's family - Eduard Saakashvili, Sandra Roelofs and Giuli Alasania held a briefing together with the European parliamentarians Anna Fotiga and Miriam Lexmann in Brussels, regarding the imprisoned former president's deteriorating health condition.

At the briefing held in the European Parliament, Miriam Lexmann said that the European Parliament will probably connect the issue of Saakashvili and Gvaramia with the issue of granting candidate status to Georgia and the country's EU aspirations will not end 'successfully'.

"If the system kills Mikheil Saakashvili in prison and there is a legal basis for him to receive proper medical care, it will be

CONTINUED FROM Page 2

Exchange Rates: US Dollar - 2.6766; Euro - 2.8185; GBP - 3.2879; 100 Russian Ruble - 4.2393; Swiss Franc - 2.8563

Family of Mikheil Saakashvili together with MEPs hold briefing at European Parliament

CONTINUED FROM Page 1

very difficult for us to say that the country fulfills the conditions imposed on them, and in this case, I would like to mention Nika Gvaramia, on whom the Public Defender's report states that he is clearly a political prisoner, and it is surprising that these two cases would be enough that Georgia's aspiration towards the European Union does not end successfully. We think that when the members of the

European Union and the Parliament analyze the current situation in Georgia, especially the situation of Mikheil Saakashvili, which is very serious, we will ask them [the government] to resolve these two issues as one of the conditions for granting EU candidacy," said Lexmann.

At the briefing, Mikheil Saakashvili's son, Eduard Saakashvili said that the family is worried about Saakashvili's condition. He hopes that Saakashvili survives, saying

that for that he needs to be given the opportunity to undergo treatment abroad.

"I am not used to speaking in public. But now the situation is different. I don't have the opportunity to see my father, but when I do, every time I see him, I find that he is worse, he is sick. A person who was energetic, charismatic, is slowly disappearing and we, the family members, are very concerned and worried about it.

We can see that his condition

is getting worse day by day. He has been in the hospital for 6 months now but it seems that he is not getting the proper attention and his condition is getting worse.

We are grateful for the support we have received. However, the situation has become very serious and something has to change. We are afraid that something terrible will happen to him. We are trying to find a solution for our family during this difficult time. The solution

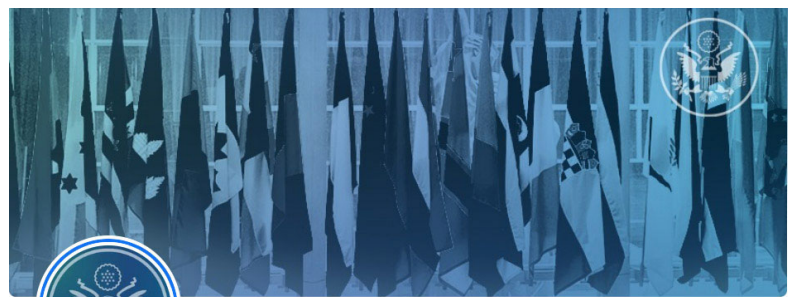
is very simple, both legally and morally. The solution is to allow him to be treated abroad in a proper clinic.

We have a lot of support from our friends in Europe. But the situation is very serious and something has to change. What will be the next step is not clear to us, but this change must happen, and my father's life and health must be saved. I hope that my father, Mikheil Saakashvili, does not die in prison," said Eduard Saakashvili.

The News in Brief

PREPARED BY MESSENGER STAFF

US Department of State says Georgian gov't is responsible for Saakashvili's human rights



U.S. Department of State

The US Department of State spoke to Voice of America regarding Mikheil Saakashvili's imprisonment and his state of health.

According to the US Department of State, the department is very closely monitoring the

treatment of Georgia's former president and the government of Georgia is responsible for all basic rights of Mikheil Saakashvili, including the right to appropriate treatment.

"Protection of Mr. Saakashvili's health and protection of human rights is the re-

sponsibility of the Georgian government." Based on the recommendations of the Public Defender's medical experts, we will continue to advocate with the relevant persons to take the necessary steps for Saakashvili's health and well-being," the State

Department said in a written statement.

The Tbilisi City Court has postponed the court session for Mikheil Saakashvili to December 14, 2022.

'So far we have not seen promising steps' MFA of Lithuania Gabrielius Landsbergis on Georgia's EU candidacy status

The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania, Gabrielius Landsbergis, said that they are waiting for progress on the path of European integration from the Georgian authorities.

According to him, he does not seem promising steps in this regard yet. Landsbergis said this before the start of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the European Union and the ministerial meeting of the Eastern Partnership member states, which was also attended by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Georgia.

"When it comes to member-

ship status, it is sad to see that Georgia and other Eastern Partnership countries, such as Moldova and Ukraine, are on different tracks. Lithuania al-

more proactive action by the Georgian government, more energy, and more strength to move to candidate status. So far we have not seen promising steps.



ways actively supports the accession of Georgia to get the candidate status, but I can say that the key to getting you back on the fast track is still in the hands of the Georgian government.

I would very much like to see

The progress, which, as I mentioned, will move Georgia's accession train to a faster track, has not reached those who have a great desire to support it," Gabrielius Landsbergis told reporters.

Georgia: EU provides Emergency Management Service with equipment for rescue operations

Weather

Wednesday, December 14

Day Partly Cloudy
High: 11°C

Night Partly Cloudy
Low: 3°C

Thursday, December 15

Day Partly Cloudy
High: 12°C

Night Partly Cloudy
Low: 3°C

At the beginning of December, the EU Delegation in Georgia handed over equipment for rescue operations to the Emergency Management Service (EMS) of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia (MIA).

EMS received seven high-mobility vehicles, three all-terrain vehicles, three drones, 40 sets of skis and ski equipment, and 12 items of victim search equipment.

"We hope the donated equipment and the complementary technical assistance will help EMS to improve its response to emergencies and disasters and better protect the health and lives of people living in Georgia,"



Catalin Gherman, Acting Head of Cooperation, EU Delegation to Georgia.

The support was provided by the European Union under its SAFE programme. Total value

of the EU support provided to EMS in the framework of the 'Support to Advancing

The Technical Capacities for Ensuring Human Security' project, implemented by UNOPS, amounts to US\$2.5 million.

From next year, the EU will additionally provide technical assistance to EMS, which will include the development of incident command systems, standard operating procedures and fire safety standards based on best European practices. This will bring the Service closer to the EU Civil Protection Mechanism.

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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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