

## Georgia to be the leader of power transmission line under the Black Sea project, Minister of Economy says

By Liza Mchedlidze

The Minister of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia Levan Davitashvili after the end of a government session said that Georgia will be an active implementer and manager of the project of the power transmission line under the Black Sea.

According to the Minister, there is already an active plan and technical and economic studies are being conducted by an Italian international company with the co-financing of the World Bank.

The Minister of Economy said that the initiator of the mentioned project was Georgia and Georgia will be the 'main guiding force' and 'leader in the implementation of the project'.

"The state finances this project with a loan taken from the World Bank, and World Bank experts are also actively involved in this project. The next stages will also be financed by Georgia, and there is a readiness of our Ministry of Finance and specific negotiations with the World Bank so that the next practical research works, which will be carried out in the sea, will also be conducted by Georgia. Georgia will be the main guiding force and leader in the implementation of the project.

When we talk about this new flagship project - the power transmission line under the Black Sea, Georgia was the initiator and the author of the idea. Georgia submitted this project to the list of economic and investment projects of the Eastern Partnership. Georgia has started technical and economic studies, Georgia has started financing these works in a proactive mode.

After that, various partner countries also joined. Recently, a very important international agreement was signed with the participation of the Prime Minister, where 4 countries will be involved, including two EU countries.

At the initial stage, there was not so



much interest, the project presented by us was not seen as relevant, however, the geopolitical situation has changed a lot, including in the European Union, therefore, this project is of special importance. This year, there is a very active involvement and enthusiasm of the leaders of the European Union regarding the implementation of this project.

After the signing of the agreement, the project will already have a different status - it will be a project that is a subject

of mutual interest. When two EU countries are involved in the implementation of the project, it will have a special status from the EU side.

Also, listen to the statements of the EU commissioners regarding the fact that there is no problem with the necessary finances for the implementation of this project, on the contrary, the EU itself is ready to mobilize several billion financial resources. The project, which was presented by the Government of Georgia, was

developed for years and was uniquely our initiative.

Today, this is a flagship project in terms of relations and connectivity with Europe - perhaps, without too much modesty, it can be said that this is the project of the century, which will increase Georgia's energy independence and also increase the importance of our country's relationship with the European Union from an economic point of view," Davitashvili stated.

## Droa, Strategy Agmashenebeli, Girchi - More Freedom release joint statement on Hague decision on 2008 war case of Georgia



By Liza Mchedlidze

Political parties Droa, Strategy Agmashenebeli and Girchi - More Freedom responded to the Hague Court's decision and released a joint statement. Parties said that now the international legal situation regarding the August war has fundamentally changed.

The leaders of the parties believe that now there is a need for concrete activity and a demand for compensation for the damages to the displaced persons.

"We are interested in whether the Georgian law enforcement agencies initiated the same type of criminal case against the three people named by the Hague prosecutor as defendants in the war actions against Georgia.

Second - is there any specific action plan in the international arena, because the legal bases are completely changing, Georgia has the right to demand reparation or compensation for the IDPs who were directly harmed in 2008.

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Exchange Rates: US Dollar - 2.6682; Euro - 2.8320; GBP - 3.2571; 100 Russian Ruble - 4.0071; Swiss Franc - 2.8647

# Droa, StrategyAghmashenebeli, Girchi - More Freedom release joint statement on Hague decision on 2008 war case of Georgia

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The international legal situation regarding the 2008 war has fundamentally

changed, and concrete activity is now very important.

Here, I would like to appeal to different types of organizations, non-govern-

mental and legal companies, that let's unite our efforts and where the 'Georgian Dream' does not protect the interests of our country, let's prepare the legal grounds for reparation, not only from 2008 but also from the 90s," 'Strategy Aghmashenebeli' leader Giorgi Vashadze said.

The Droa leader Elene Khoshtaria said that it has been proven that Georgia has no guilt in the "episode of peacekeepers and Tskhinvali" which, according to her, means that the version of the Start of the war, which Russia and the Georgian

Dream gave Georgians, has simply been 'shattered'.

The prosecutor of the International Criminal Court, Karim Khan, announced on December 16 that the stage of the investigation regarding the crimes committed by the Russian Federation in the 2008 Russia-Georgia war has been completed.

The Pre-Trial Chamber of the International Criminal Court (ICC) has issued arrest warrants for 3 people for crimes committed in the August 2008 war.

## The News in Brief

PREPARED BY MESSENGER STAFF

### Power generators to be sent from Georgia to Ukraine by end of 2022



According to Vice Prime Minister Levan Davitashvili, power generators will be sent from Georgia to Ukraine by the end of this year.

As Davitashvili mentioned after the government session, the process of purchasing various high-quality power generators has started.

"Regarding generators, you know that the Prime Minister of Georgia has decided to help Ukraine with generators. This task was accepted by the State Electric System - our Ministry. Rather, we re-

ceived a request from our Ukrainian colleagues to help us with generators and other equipment. Unfortunately, we didn't really have extra generators in stock.

Next, the Prime Minister made a specific decision and we received an order, resources were allocated for this, and the procurement process started; we will help our Ukrainian colleagues and friends with generators. Adequately suitable, high-tech devices and very reliable generators have been received.

Our expert group is involved in this, I have the first data, and the procurement procedure is already underway, it will be sent from Georgia by the end of the year," Davitashvili said.

### Turkey provides Georgian Defense Forces with various types of equipment for aviation and air defense

The Government of the Republic of Turkey has provided various types of equipment to the Defense Forces of Georgia in order to improve the capabilities of aviation and air defense. The information was released by the Ministry of Defense of Georgia.

According to the Ministry, the event was attended by the Deputy Minister of Defense of Georgia Grigol Giorgadze, the

Deputy Commander of the Defense Forces, Brigadier General Irakli Chichinadze and the Ambassador of Turkey to Georgia Ali Kaan Orbay.

"The Aviation and Air Defense Command received two units of airfield special equipment and spare parts for UH-1H helicopters from the Turkish side free

fense, Colonel Sergo Ninua, and the Defense Attaché of the Republic of Turkey, Colonel Burak Altiner.

The transfer of equipment was carried out within the framework of the military financial cooperation agreement signed with the Republic of Turkey. Georgia and Turkey have been closely cooperating in



of charge. Later, the equipment transfer protocol was signed, which was signed by the Commander of Aviation and Air De-

the field of defense for many years," the press release of the Ministry of Defense reads.

## EU welcomes initiative to lay submarine cable under Black Sea

The EU will be ready to provide financial support for the Black Sea Energy submarine cable project, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said on 17 December, attending the signing in the Ro-



manian capital Bucharest of a memorandum of understanding between Azerbaijan, Georgia, Hungary and Romania, which envisages the laying of an underwater electricity cable across the Black Sea.

Ursula von der Leyen said the agreement would bring the European Union closer to its partners in the South Caucasus region, and would help both regions achieve the clean energy transition. "Since the beginning of Russia's war, we have decided to turn our back on Russian fossil fuels and to diversify towards reliable energy partners, like the partners here around the table. And it is working," said the European Commission President.

She added the initiative would reinforce energy security in Europe and bring new opportunities to Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine: "This project could bring Georgia, a country with a European destiny, great benefits as well. It could transform the country into an electricity hub and integrate it in the EU internal electricity market. Finally, the Black Sea electric cable could also help bring electricity to our neighbours in Moldova and the Western Balkans, and of course to Ukraine - it will help start rebuilding Ukraine's energy system and the reconstruction of the country."

(eunighbourseast.eu)

### Weather

Tuesday, December 20

Day Showers  
High: 8°C

Night Showers  
Low: 2°C

Wednesday, December 21

Day Light Rain  
High: 4°C

Night Partly Cloudy  
Low: -2°C

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