

PM Gharibashvili Says Russia and Ukraine Should Return to Negotiating Table, Calls Situation 'Worrying'

BY LIZA MCHEDLIDZE

The Prime Minister of Georgia, Irakli Gharibashvili, answered reporters' questions regarding the Ukraine war. According to him, there is recession, uncertainty and unpredictability in the world.

Gharibashvili said that the war is not ending, and there is no attempt to stop it, and added that parties should somehow go back to the negotiating table. He assessed the situation as 'worrying'.

"Despite these challenges, our authorities, the government, all together, the whole team, managed to avoid the biggest trial for our country - this is war. This is the attempt, which unfortunately does not stop, to somehow transfer this conflict to our country. In this regard, we directly heard statements from the representatives of the Ukrainian authorities that their goal was to open a second front. This goal was served by sending former President Saakashvili to Georgia, and there are too many provocations that are not resolved by them, unfortunately," he said.

The Prime Minister also said that as a result of the war, both sides have suffered heavy losses and there is no attempt to stop the war.

"You see, since the beginning of the war, 20% of the territory



of Ukraine has been occupied, tens of thousands of people have died, Ukraine lost hundreds of billions of dollars. Some say that it is already a trillion dollars, others say 700-800 billion, who will count that. Most importantly, apart from the military,

there are very heavy losses on both sides, civil infrastructure, citizens died, and children. Nothing can restore this loss and loss, this pain. We see that the war does not stop, there is no attempt, we must say frankly, that this war should stop, that the parties

should somehow return to the negotiating table, this is certainly worrying," he said.

According to Irakli Gharibashvili, As a result of the Ukraine war, the region and the world as a whole has become even more 'unpredictable'.

He added that the Government's main task is to protect the interests of Georgian people, and that they will do what the country and Georgian people need, and only make decisions and work accordingly.

Pawel Herczynski: 'We Are Here to Support Trade Union Through South Caucasus That Connects EU and Central Asia'

BY LIZA MCHEDLIDZE

EU Ambassador to Georgia Pawel Herczynski attended the annual regular meeting of the Organization's Intergovernmental Commission's 16th session in Tbilisi.

"The European Union supports connectivity, and that is why we are happy to participate in the annual meeting of TRACECA, as it is an international organization that connects Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia," Herczynski said.

The EU Ambassador to Georgia said that for the international community, transport connections are one of the main challenges for the countries, and the organization wishes to contribute to the connection of the European Union, the South Caucasus and Central Asia with the global gateway strategy.

Pawel Herczynski stated that the European Union supports a sustainable transport network,

both railway and road - from the European Union through the South Caucasus, Georgia and to Central Asia.

"This is important especially now, in today's reality - in the conditions of Russia's unjustified and unprovoked aggression towards Ukraine, the role of the Middle Corridor is growing, and we are here to support the trade union through the South Caucasus, which connects the European Union and Central Asia", said the EU Ambassador to Georgia.

Georgia is the chairing country of the TRACECA Intergovernmental Commission for 1 year starting, February 11, 2023.

The delegations of the countries participating in the session, among other important issues, discussed the development of multimodal and maritime transport, promotion of border crossing procedures and other topical issues related to the development of the TRACECA corridor.



The News in Brief

PREPARED BY MESSENGER STAFF

Mikheil Saakashvili Appeals to Ombudsman for Independent Medical Council



The third president of Georgia, Mikheil Saakashvili, who has been convicted and is undergoing treatment at the “Vivamed” clinic, appealed to the public defender to send a council of doctors to him.

Saakashvili wrote that his health condition has worsened and an independent examination is needed.

“I and my representatives repeatedly appealed to the Acting Public Defender of Georgia Mrs. Tamar Gvaramadze in the previous days with a request to send

your medical council.

My condition has worsened in recent days and no one but you has the ability to send independent experts. Hopefully, you will implement this in the coming days and no political pressure will pre-

vent you from doing so,” Saakashvili wrote.

PM Gharibashvili calls UNM a ‘bankrupt, discredited and marginalized radical force’.

“Our people see everyday that this radical-extremist party has turned into some kind of comical organization,” Prime Minister of Georgia Irakli Gharibashvili told

reporters during his working visit to Bakuriani, where he inspected the preparatory works and infrastructural projects of the 2023 Freestyle Ski and Snowboard World Championship.

The Prime Minister called “United

weak efforts of theirs show once again that this is a completely bankrupt, discredited and marginalized radical force. Of course, I am not interested in either their actions or their meaningless statements.



National Movement” a ‘bankrupt, discredited and marginalized radical force’.

“Our people see it every day, that this radical-extremist party has turned into some kind of comical organization, they have elected a new chairman, all these

We should do the main thing - we should do the work, serve our country, our people, we should do only what our country needs. So, I am not really interested in what they are planning”, said the Prime Minister.

Over 50 street cats and dogs are receiving their daily food rations in Batumi, Georgia, as part of an EU-supported initiative.

They were fed by members of the ‘Eureka’ youth club, established at the Black Sea College, who decided to raise public awareness of the need to care for homeless animals.

This initiative is part of the ‘Month of Good Deeds’ announced by the ‘Mziuri sahli’ (Sunny house) non-formal education youth centre with support from the European Union Delegation to Georgia and the United Nation Development Programme (UNDP) Georgia. Nine colleges and vocational schools joined the activity.

The EU and UNDP joint project for ‘Lifelong Learning Opportunities Through Local Partnerships’ promotes non-formal education and helps young people to unlock their talents and potential.

(eunighbourseast.eu)

Weather

Monday, February 13

Day Partly Cloudy
High: 4°C

Night Partly Cloud
Low: -3°C

Tuesday, February 14

Day Partly Cloudy
High: 4°C

Night Partly Cloudy
Low: -4°C

Georgia: street cats and dogs in Batumi fed as part of EU and UNDP project



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