

Russia Demands Agreement on Non-Use of Force From Georgia to Ensure 'Peace', Maria Zakharova Says

BY LIZA MCHEDLIDZE

According to the representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Russia, Maria Zakharova, Russia is interested in strengthening relations with occupied Abkhazia and Tskhinvali, and in order to ensure 'peace' in the region, Russia is asking Georgia to sign an agreement on the non-use of force.

"We attach special importance to ensuring the security of Abkhazia and South Ossetia. Russian military bases operate on their territory, we jointly protect state borders to prevent possible provocations, which is relevant in the new geopolitical reality.

We demand from Georgia a binding agreement on non-use of force against these countries. We believe that this is a guarantee of stability in the region," said Zakharova.

According to Zakharova, Russia ensured the protection and development of occupied Abkhazia and Tskhinvali 15 years ago by recognizing them.

"Most citizens of Abkhazia and South Ossetia have Russian citizenship and they support the strengthening of the alliance



with Russia. We achieved significant results through joint

efforts in all areas of bilateral cooperation, which creates con-

ditions for strengthening the foreign policy and economy of

Sukhumi and Tskhinvali," Zakharova said.

European Parliament's Resolution on Mikheil Saakashvili Demands Sanctioning Bidzina Ivanishvili

BY LIZA MCHEDLIDZE

On February 15, the European Parliament plans to adopt a resolution regarding the situation created around the third president of Georgia, Mikheil Saakashvili.

For the resolution, the political groups of the European Parliament submitted 5 working documents, after reviewing which they will approve the reconciled resolution.

In the working documents presented by the MEPs, concerns are expressed about Mikheil Saakashvili's health condition, saying that the government is responsible for Mikheil Saakashvili's health and carrying out relevant medical services.

In addition, 2 out of 5 working documents have added a paragraph in which MEPs call on EU leaders to consider imposing personal sanctions against Bidzina Ivanishvili because of his important role in the arrest of Mikheil Saakashvili and the deterioration of political processes in Georgia.

All documents registered in the European Parliament also mention the need to transfer Mikheil Saakashvili for treatment abroad.

It is also mentioned in the documents that President Salome Zourabichvili should use her authority and solve this issue.

The working documents of the resolution also mention that the situation created around Mikheil Saakashvili hurts political processes in Georgia, deepens polarization and prevents Georgia's aspiration towards the European Union.



The News in Brief

PREPARED BY MESSENGER STAFF

President of France Awards Nino Lomjaria with National Order of Honor



Former Public Defender of Georgia Nino Lomjaria was awarded the National Order of Honor by French President Emmanuel Macron. The informa-

tion was released by the French Embassy in Georgia.

According to the embassy, this award was given to the former ombudsman for the role she played in the field

of democracy.

“Today, the French Ambassador to Georgia, Ms. Sheraz Ghasri, met with the former Public Defender of Georgia, Ms.

Nino Lomjaria, to inform her that the French President, Mr. Macron, awarded her with the National Order of Honor.

This award will be given to Ms. Lomjaria for the important role she played at the head of one of the pillars of Georgian democracy. We sincerely congratulate her,” the statement of the French Embassy reads.

Saakashvili’s Lawyer: We Are Not Thinking about Strasbourg, Decision must be delivered to Us First and We Will Appeal in Court



Shalva Khachapuridze, the lawyer of the former president of Georgia, Mikheil Saakashvili, said they are not thinking about Strasbourg yet, but plan to appeal to the Tbilisi Court of Appeals.

“We are not thinking of Strasbourg. The decision should be handed over to Mr. Giorgi Arevadze, we will appeal it to the Tbilisi Court of Appeals and at the same time we will think about what further actions and measures should be taken.

You know that during the trial the penitentiary service denied the episodes of Saakashvili’s fainting, etc. However, in the footage that was broadcast from the penitentiary, the public saw that Saakashvili had a number of fainting episodes.

The rest of the footage is yet to be delivered, we will receive it, hopefully, this week and after that, we will think about

exhausting the internal state resources from start to finish. He is in a worse situation than that today, and we will have this footage very soon, in two or three days, and we will show this to the public,” said Khachapuridze.

With the support of the EU and Denmark, and in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the National Statistics Office of Georgia (GEOSTAT) has developed a specialised webpage regions.geostat.ge integrated into its public website, offering information on 64 Georgian municipalities.

The platform tracks economic, demographic and social dynamics across 82 indicators, with 52 indicators provided by Georgia’s public agencies, and the rest by GEOSTAT through statistical surveys.

The project was developed with the aim of improving municipal data collection, systematising already available

Georgia: EU supports new services for municipal data collection



statistical information, defining and collecting new statistical indicators, and making sub-national statistics easily accessible to the public.

“The EU cares deeply about further developing the regions of Georgia to make sure that the whole population has access to opportunities and services. The foundation of this is clear and reliable data,” said Colombe de Mercey from the EU Delegation to Georgia. “The new GEOSTAT platform will help policy-makers and local authorities to make well-informed decisions for the people living in their regions.”

UNDP’s assistance to Georgia’s National Statistics Office, GEOSTAT, is supported by the EU-funded programme EU for Integrated Territorial Development (EU4ITD) promoting balanced territorial development and improved living standards in Georgia’s regions, and the Denmark-funded project for decentralization and good governance in Georgia.

(euneighbourseast.eu)

Weather

Tuesday, February 14

Day Partly Cloudy High: 4°C

Night Partly Cloud Low: -5°C

Wednesday, February 15

Day Partly Cloudy High: 5°C

Night Partly Cloudy Low: -3°C

published by

The Messenger

43, Chovelidze st., Tbilisi, 0108, Georgia

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