

Irakli Kobakhidze Calls President Salome Zourabichvili's Recent Statements 'Incomprehensible'

BY LIZA MCHEDLIDZE

Georgian Dream Chairman Irakli Kobakhidze criticized President Salome Zourabichvili's recent statements and called it 'incomprehensible'.

Kobakhidze named three factors that led to the support of the Georgian Dream for Zourabichvili's candidacy in the presidential elections.

"One of the main criteria was that she was a woman. Symbolism was emphasized, including by Mr. Bidzina. We have had this historical tradition since King Tamar, we are proud that women are at the forefront, including in political life. We respect this tradition; The second, important factor that Bidzina Ivanishvili also personally focused on was her special connection with our recent history. It is about her personally, her family. She is a descendant of the founders of the First Republic and public figures of that time; Third, an important factor was that this person was not connected with the United National Movement and its founders. This was an important circumstance," Kobakhidze explained.

According to Kobakhidze, with the aggressive campaign against Salome Zourabichvili by the United National Movement during the presidential campaign, it became clear that Zourabichvili had no connection either with the United National Movement or with the foreign



allies of this party.

"Do you remember the then-fascist campaign against Salome Zourabichvili? Her announcement as a traitor, the blasphemy that we heard from Gvaramia and other leaders of the United National Movement. Then it was actually deciphered that this person was not related to the

United National Movement in any way, as well as to its 'owners'. "At that time, the foreign patrons of the United National Movement were also involved in that fascist campaign, the foreigners came directly and supported the fascist campaign against Zourabichvili," said the chairman of the ruling party.

Kobakhidze said that the president's positions and statements changed over time and became incomprehensible to the ruling team. Kobakhidze cited the influence of the Global War Party as the reason for this.

"Some time has passed and statements made on her part that are incomprehensible to us.

However, I will also say that the Global War Party has its own considerable resources, the impact of which is the statements and positions that Mrs. Salome makes. However, at the same time, it can be seen from time to time that this person has her own principles and stands by them," stated Kobakhidze.

Four Opposition Parties Hold Meetings in Strasbourg

BY LIZA MCHEDLIDZE



The leaders of Girchi - More Freedom, Droa, Strategy Aghmasheneeli and the United National Movement held meetings with members of various political groups of the European Parliament in Strasbourg.

The representatives of the parties held several meetings in the European Parliament, where the main issue was the European perspective of the country and the barriers that accompany this process.

The representatives of the opposition political parties named the Georgian Dream and the Russian politics produced by it as the main barrier to Georgia's European path.

According to the leader of Droa Elene Khoshtaria, apart from specific challenges, the issue of sanctions was also discussed with the MEPs. Khoshtaria said that they intend to provide relevant agencies with material, including the issue of

restricting the movement of the pro-Russian party 'Alt Info', as well as in the direction of Bidzina Ivanishvili.

"They know very well what challenges Georgia has in particular, be it political prisoners, the judicial system, or others. Of course, what happened in Tbilisi recently deserves a lot of respect from them, this is a clear example of people fighting, and naturally, we talked about the next steps, because we are not going to stop and we are going to take further steps for the European perspective. In addition to political prisoners and judicial reform, very important specific topics are the topic of sanctions, and we intend to provide material among them to the relevant agencies, including the executive part, on the issue of restriction of movement of Alt Info and similar groups, as well as in Ivanishvili's direction in general," said the leader of Droa, Elene Khoshtaria.

The News in Brief

PREPARED BY MESSENGER STAFF

Great Britain to Assist Georgia with £500,000 to Strengthen Security for 2024 Elections



Great Britain will financially support Moldova and Georgia against the backdrop of Putin's illegal invasion of Ukraine.

According to British reports, the UK Foreign Secretary, James Cleverly, during his visit to 2 countries, will announce additional funding, which will be used for

economic reforms in Moldova, and strengthening security for Georgia during the 2024 elections.

The UK is providing an additional £10m to support economic and governance reforms in Moldova, and £500,000 for security in Georgia's elections next

year.

"To strengthen democracy in Georgia, the United Kingdom will allocate 500,000 pounds to create the necessary environment for free, fair elections in 2024, which will be protected from external interference," the statement reads.

NATO Hands Over Vehicles to Defense Forces of Georgia



NATO handed over vehicles to the Defense Forces of Georgia. Six units of Toyota Land Cruiser Prado 150 equipped with special equipment were delivered to Georgia within the NATO-Georgia Essential Package (SNGP) military police initiative.

According to the reports, the Minister of Defense of Georgia, Juansher Burchuladze, the head of the NATO Liaison Office, Alexander Vinnikov, representatives of the Defense Forces and the

main group of NATO attended the ceremony of handing over vehicles.

The Ministry of Defense said that the

vehicles, which are equipped with special sets necessary for various types of investigative and criminal investigations, will be used by the Military Police of the Defense Forces for official purposes. Specialized vehicles will further improve the military police's quick and effective response capabilities.

The vehicles were purchased by the NATO Trust Fund and the total cost is 542,520.00 Euros. Latvia and Australia are contributors to the project.

European Commission publishes its General Report 2022 – focus on EU's solidarity with Ukraine

On 15 March, the European Commission published the 2022 edition of the EU General Report – "The EU in 2022".

The report presents key EU activities in 2022, with a strong focus on the EU's response to Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine and the unwavering solidarity with Ukraine.

In particular, the EU adopted more than 200 measures to help the Ukrainian state and people, and to support Member States in dealing with the consequences of the war, especially on Europe's economy and energy security. Around 4 million people



fleeing the war received temporary protection in EU Member States.

In 2022, the EU adopted nine packages of sanctions to curtail Russia's ability to wage war and mobilised close to •50 billion in support for Ukraine.

The report also highlights EU relations with the Eastern Partner countries, the strengthening of political and economic ties, including through providing EU candidate status to Moldova and Ukraine and European perspective to Georgia, and increasing sanctions against Lukashenko's regime in Belarus.

The report reminds that the EU is investing •2.3 billion in the Eastern Partnership to leverage investments of up to •17 billion across all sectors.

(euneighbourseast.eu)

Weather

Friday, March 17

Day Cloudy High: 19°C

Night Cloudy Low: 11°C

Saturday, March 18

Day Mostly Cloudy High: 18°C

Night Light Rain Low: 12°C

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