

Foreign Minister Ilia Darchiashvili Meets with European Commissioner Olivér Várhelyi in Brussels



part is devoted to my meetings in the European Commission with both commissioners and other responsible persons, and the second part of the visit is the Georgia-NATO commission, which will take place in the second half of the week.

I started the meetings today. I had a very interesting meeting with the Commissioner for Enlargement, Mr. Várhelyi. We informed him of the reforms that have already been carried out, that have already been completed. We also had the opportunity to discuss the recommendations we received from the Venice Commission. This issue, of course, will continue, there is already a political process in the parliament around these specific recommendations. I conveyed to the commissioner our readiness that the Parliament of Georgia, the governing team, will try to continue this discussion with the involvement of all participants in this process and Georgia will finish working on the recommendations as soon as possible, in the coming months," said Darchiashvili.

According to Darchiashvili, they received traditionally supportive messages from the European Commissioner.

"We fully shared the information about the work done with the commissioner. Of course, we have traditionally received very supportive messages from him, and I would like to point out that he was very interested in the details of the work done and future plans," said Darchiashvili.

BY LIZA MCHEDLIDZE

Minister of Foreign Affairs of Georgia Ilia Darchiashvili within the framework of official visit to Brussels met with the European Commis-

sioner for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Olivér Várhelyi.

After the meeting, the Minister of Foreign Affairs said that he told the European Commissioner that the Georgian Parliament and the governing team

will complete the discussion with the involvement of all participants and that Georgia 12 will be built as soon as possible.

According to Darchiashvili, the first part of the visit to Brussels includes meetings with the

European Commission, and the second part is the meeting with the NATO-Georgia Commission.

"First of all, I would like to point out that this year is my first visit to Brussels. The visit is divided into two parts: the first

Five Amendments to be Included in Draft Law on 'Deoligarchization', Irakli Kobakhidze says

BY LIZA MCHEDLIDZE

The Chairman of the Georgian Dream party Irakli Kobakhidze spoke to reporters about the 'Deoligarchization' bill and said that Venice Commission's requests will be specified and after that, the official structures will decide who should be identified as an 'oligarch'.

According to him, 5 amendments will be included in the 'Deoligarchization' bill. According to him the law is general and cannot be adjusted to 'specific names'.

"The Venice Commission states that it is possible to adopt this law, they just have five specific notes, recommendations. We will follow their conclusion,

5 relevant amendments will be included in the law and this bill will be adopted in its final form.

The law is general and cannot be adjusted to any name or surname, therefore the law should be general-abstract and not adjusted to a specific name or surname. To whom the law will ultimately fit, the relevant structures will decide in accordance with the law. I cannot tell in advance who the law will fit, objective criteria will be written, everything that the Venice Commission requires will be specified, and after that, the official structures will make a decision on who should be identified as an oligarch.

De-oligarchization means freeing the country from oligarchs.

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Exchange Rates: US Dollar - 2.5762; Euro - 2.7717; GBP - 3.1564; 100 Russian Ruble - 3.3457; Swiss Franc - 2.7839

Five Amendments to be Included in Draft Law on 'Deoligarchization', Irakli Kobakhidze says

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We have to discuss who is the oligarch in Georgia, the self-con-

fessed oligarch in Georgia is Kezerashvili. directly published a letter stating that he finances parties, media and the so-called

civil organizations. He is a self-confessed oligarch, he proves it himself, that is, we have one self-confessed oligarch. The law it-

self will show the rest to whom this law will be applied. Europe has not recognized anyone when it comes to resolutions, we have

already said that they have no value because they are unjust resolutions," said Kobakhidze.

The News in Brief

PREPARED BY MESSENGER STAFF

NATO Secretary General Calls on Political Leaders of Georgia to Work Together on Reforms



Jens Stoltenberg, the Secretary General of NATO, stated at briefing that he welcomes the Georgian government's decision to withdraw the draft law on Agents of Foreign Influence.

Stoltenberg called on political leaders of Georgia to work together on necessary reforms.

According to the NATO Secretary General, Georgian people have clearly stated that they want integration in the Euro-Atlantic region and democratic prosperity.

"I welcome the decision of the Parliament of Georgia to drop or withdraw the draft law on foreign agents or influence, because it is incompatible with Euro-Atlantic values and the protection of fundamental freedoms. So, I welcome the withdrawal of this initiative and the parlia-

ment not taking sides. I call on the political leaders of Georgia to work together on the necessary reforms and, of course, NATO is also working with Georgia to implement these reforms, to strengthen democratic institutions, to strengthen democratic control over security services and to defeat corruption. The Georgian people have made it clear that they want Georgia's democratic prosperity, integration into the Euro-Atlantic region. NATO continues partnership in these aspira-

tions," Stoltenberg stated.

Irakli Gharibashvili Meets with EU Ambassador to Georgia Pawel Herczynski



The Prime Minister of Georgia, Irakli Gharibashvili, met with the Ambassador of the European Union to Georgia, Pawel Herczynski, and the ambassadors of the EU member states. The working lunch was held at the initiative of the EU ambassadors, where the head of the government was invited.

The press office of the Prime Minister of Georgia wrote that at the meeting, concrete steps Georgia is taking to obtain the candidate status were discussed. The conversation touched on the 12 recommendations implemented by the parliament

and the government, which were defined for our country.

According to the press release, the successful reforms carried out by the government and the progress that Georgia has on the path of integration into the

European Union were also summarized.

The report published by the European Commission was also discussed. It was emphasized that the report clearly reflects the progress achieved by Georgia on the path of European integration.

Irakli Gharibashvili informed the ambassadors about the steps that the Georgian government will take until October when the European Commission will publish a written report and recommend to the European Council whether to grant Georgia candidate status or not.

Road safety: EU helps Ukrainians to be visible in the dark

The EU Delegation to Ukraine, together with its partners, has conducted a campaign aimed at improving the security of Ukrainians during the darkest winter months and temporary blackouts, caused by Russia's illicit attacks on Ukrai-



nian energy infrastructure.

Tens of thousands of Ukrainians received special road safety equipment distributed throughout the country – at 'invincibility points' (specialised tents where they can recharge their devices and heat up food), railway stations, through EU projects and local NGOs. A total of

20,000 self-winding strips, 7,000 reflective waistcoats for adults, 2,500 reflective waistcoats for children, 100 reflective dog collars and 2,000 key rings with reflective elements were distributed to Ukrainians.

"All this helped Ukrainians to be visible in the dark and significantly reduced the risks of serious injuries and road accidents involving pedestrians," says the EU Delegation to Ukraine.

(euneighbourseast.eu)

Weather

Wednesday, March 22

Day Mostly Cloudy
High: 18°C

Night Partly Cloudy
Low: 7°C

Thursday, March 23

Day Partly Cloudy
High: 18°C

Night Mostly Cloudy
Low: 9°C

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