

Georgia and Azerbaijan Sign Updated Defense Cooperation Agreement

By Liza Mchedlidze

During the visit of the Minister of Defense of Georgia to Azerbaijan, the governments of Georgia and Azerbaijan signed an updated agreement on defense cooperation. The Ministry of Defense of Georgia has released information regarding this development.

As per the agency's report, Juansher Burchuladze, the Defense Minister of Georgia, highlighted the importance of strong interpersonal connections and good neighborly relations with Azerbaijan during his meeting with his Azerbaijani counterpart, Zakir Hasanov. The two officials also discussed the security challenges in the region.

"The parties discussed current issues of bilateral cooperation in the field of defense and future plans, including participation in international training and military education programs. The conversation also covered cooperation in the format of trilateral cooperation between Azerbaijan, Turkey, and Georgia. It was noted that strategic-level meetings, cooperation in the field of defense, joint exercises, and expert meetings further strengthen the mutual compatibility between the countries," the Defense Ministry statement reads.

As per the Ministry of Defense of Azerbaijan, the two parties held detailed discussions on matters concerning the preservation of peace and security in the region. They also discussed the potential expansion of cooperation in various areas such as military, military-technical, and military-educational fields, as well as other topics of mutual interest.

According to the information released by the Ministry of Defense of Azerbaijan, during the meeting, the Minister of De-



fense updated his colleague about the provocations by Armenia aimed at exacerbating the situation along the border between Azerbaijan and Armenia, as well as in the region where the Russian peacekeeping contingent is currently stationed on Azerbaijani territory.

The meeting involved discussions on

the potential for the development of bilateral and trilateral cooperation among Azerbaijan, Turkey, and Georgia. According to the released information, there was also a thorough exchange of views on how to enhance the frequency and intensity of joint exercises and workshops.

During the visit, the Minister of De-

fense of Georgia also held a meeting with the President of Azerbaijan, Ilham Aliyev. According to the 'Trend' agency, the discussions focused on the development of cooperation between the two countries in various fields, including defense. The two leaders also engaged in talks on regional security issues.

Georgia's European Integration Efforts Highlighted at Council of Foreign Affairs Meeting," says Foreign Minister Ilia Darchiashvili

By Liza Mchedlidze



Ilia Darchiashvili, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Georgia, stated that the invitation of the head of the Foreign Ministry of Georgia to attend the Council of Foreign Affairs meeting, which includes the foreign ministers of all 27 EU member states and is chaired by Joseph Borell, is a clear indication of the strong interest of Georgia's partners in the country's European integration efforts.

According to Darchiashvili, the issues on the EU-Georgia bilateral agenda were discussed at the meeting.

Darchiashvili stated that during the meeting, he shared the concrete measures that the Georgian government has taken and will take in the future toward European integration, as well as the implementation of 12 recommendations. He described the communication as result-oriented and emphasized its importance,

Exchange Rates: US Dollar - 2.5069; Euro - 2.7603; GBP - 3.1216; 100 Russian Ruble - 3.0838; Swiss Franc - 2.8174

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stating that it would bring tangible outcomes toward Georgia's European integration.

"I had the opportunity to share the concrete steps that our government has taken in the direction of European integration, the steps that are planned in the future. Also, we talked about the implementation of 12 recommendations, concrete steps taken in this direction. It was a very interesting and result-oriented commu-

nication. Today's meeting was distinguished by its importance and will definitely bring concrete, tangible results in the direction of our European integration."

The minister stated the meeting was very positive and that Borell provided strong and supportive statements regarding Georgia's European integration. He also noted that the ministers of foreign affairs of the EU member states expressed a positive attitude towards Georgia's integration into the European family, with almost all stating their

strong support for it.

"We received very strong, supportive statements from him, and in general, I would like to note that the ministers of foreign affairs of the EU member states around the round table expressed a very positive attitude towards us. Almost all stated that they strongly support Georgia's integration into the European family.

Everyone unequivocally emphasized that they see Georgia in the European family, and this is an especially important message for us to strengthen our

reforms, to strengthen our daily activities and activities, the need of which comes from the recommendations given by the European Commission.

I assured my colleagues unequivocally and emphatically that Georgia is firmly committed to implementing the reform agenda for European integration, and we will continue to work actively towards this goal in the future. While we discussed various topics, the main focus was certainly on the future of Georgia's European integration," said Darchiashvili.

The News in Brief

PREPARED BY MESSENGER STAFF

Georgia's Government to Fund Cancer Treatment Abroad for Children



According to the Prime Minister of Georgia, Irakli Gharibashvili, the government will fund the treatment costs for children with cancer who require

treatment abroad. Prior to a government meeting, he announced that 30 million GEL will be allocated to treat 300 patients.

Gharibashvili emphasized the need for overseas treatment in many cases, which may include expensive services like proton

therapy and radiation that can cost thousands of US dollars or up to 100,000 euros for a single course. He assured that the government will fully cover all ex-

penses related to treatment, living, and other needs.

Gharibashvili spoke about children diagnosed with achondroplasia and addressed their parents who have been protesting for weeks, asking for access to medicine.

"I want to explain well to our society and dear parents, I understand their emotionality. For those who are not aware of this case, they portrayed "give medicine to children" as if if we give medicine, everything will change. They also frame it as if their lives are in danger, which is a very big lie... We know many people all over the world who are successful and they cannot be discriminated against, we must be committed to this," Gharibashvili said.

Estonia's Foreign Minister Raises Concerns About Georgia's Democratic Situation

The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Estonia, Margus Tsahkna, stated that Estonia

has been a long-time supporter of Georgia and emphasized the importance of Georgia's situation regarding democracy, court, and justice. He stated that Estonia



has questions about the current situation and will seek answers from Georgia.

"We support Georgia 100 percent, but there are certain steps that the government of Georgia should take, because we have a lot of questions regarding the democratic situation," stated

Tsahkna.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Estonia stated that it is important to note that Georgia is represented in the meeting

EU4Climate: schools in Georgia use murals to promote climate action

Weather

Tuesday, April 25

Day Partly Cloudy

High: 21°C

Night Clear

Low: 10°C

Wednesday, April 26

Day Clear

High: 23°C

Night T-storm

Low: 13°C

(euneighbourseast.eu) Students from the Besik Niparishvili's Kaspi School-

Gymnasium and Tbilisi Public School No.145 decorated the walls of their school buildings

with special murals to share a message of urgent action to protect the planet.

With these murals, school-

children aim to promote Climate Street Art across Georgia.

These thought-provoking murals were created with the as-



sistance of the European Union in Georgia and UNDP Georgia in partnership with a Georgian civil society organisation 'Let's do it - Georgia civil society'.

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43, Chovelidze st., Tbilisi, 0108, Georgia
Founded by Prof. Zaza Gachechiladze
Tamar Gachechiladze
Publisher

Mob.: +995 599 565621; +995 577 760000
E-mail: messenger@messenger.com.ge
http://www.messenger.com.ge/

Nino Metreveli
Commercial Director

Mariam Mchedlidze
Editor-in-Chief

Khatuna Gogichaishvili
Layout Designer, Photographer

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therefore, the opinions expressed in some articles do not necessarily coincide with those of the newspaper. We take no responsibility for any claims made in advertisements.

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Italian Embassy Cup

The second edition of the Italian Embassy Cup celebrated the strong friendship in the field of football between Italy and Georgia, with a very special guest. @inter's Vice President and former captain Javier Zanetti awarded young participants from Inter Milan and Saburtalo FC youth teams participating in the competition. He then visited the Residence of Italy in Tbilisi, gifting to the Italian Embassy a unique black and blue commemorative jersey.

As stressed by H. E. the Ambassador of Italy in Georgia, Mr. Enrico Valvo, @javierzanetti's presence was especially appreciated by young people participating in the Italian Embassy Cup - organised annually in cooperation with the International Foundation of Sport, Tourism and Youth of Georgia - with the strong message that football academies should spare no efforts not only to improve sportive skills, but also to support human development of young generations.

The Italian football club has been active since 2021 in the @interacademygeorgia project, participating in both editions of the Italian Embassy cup. Keep following us to know more about the Embassy's initiatives in the field of sport.

