

Parliament Chairman Shalva Papuashvili Meets with President of Malta George Vella

BY LIZA MCHEDLIDZE

Parliament Chairman Shalva Papuashvili held a meeting with George Vella, the President of the Republic of Malta, as reported by the press service of the Georgian Parliament.

Papuashvili and Vella discussed various topics such as the cooperation between the two countries, Russia's aggression towards Ukraine and its impact, the occupied regions of Georgia and the country's efforts towards joining the European Union.

The press service reported that both parties acknowledged the shared European values between Georgia and Malta. Vella also commended Georgia's progress and expressed Malta's support for its European aspirations.

"Today we had a very important meeting with the President of Malta. Just like yesterday the Chairman of the Parliament of Malta, today the President of Malta confirmed Malta's unconditional support for the European integration of Georgia. It can be said that Malta is one of the enthusiastic supporters not only of Georgia's progress towards European integration but also of Georgia's rapid accession to the European Union. As a result of these conversations, we are very grateful to our Maltese colleagues. This is really a great motivation for our people when we have a country that is such an ardent fan of our European path," said the Chairman of the Parliament of Georgia.

Vella expressed unwavering support for Georgia's efforts to



strengthen its relationship with the European Union. He acknowledged the challenges that Georgia faced, particularly after Russia's invasion in 2008, which resulted in two regions being pro-Russian and almost entirely cut off from the rest of Georgia. The president emphasized that Malta firmly believed in Georgia's place in the European Union and hoped that the country's economic and political progress would enable it to fully benefit from the opportunities offered by the EU. He also expressed respect and support for Georgia's

desire to join NATO.

"We have always supported and will support Georgia's aspiration to get closer to the European Union. Especially after 2008, when Russia invaded Georgia. We know that the two regions are pro-Russian and practically separated. We believe that Georgia's place is in the European Union and we hope that, as a result of economic and political development, the country will develop more to take full advantage of what the European Union can offer. This is very important. At the same time, we

respect and support Georgia's aspiration to join NATO.

Although we are a neutral state, we respect the wishes of a sovereign state. Now we understand even better what the 2008 war meant to the Georgian people because now we see the same thing happening again in Ukraine. This was also part of the discussion within the framework of the meeting with the Chairman of the Parliament. We now understand much better what happened in Georgia, because practically the same thing is happening in Ukraine.

You asked me what we discussed - unfortunately, we do not have frequent meetings with Georgia and we should have more. We talked about Georgia's situation and its participation in international organizations, such as the OSCE and the Council of Europe. There are no problems between our two countries. I think we can use our relationship more in terms of trade, culture, and people-to-people relations. This was part of my message," said the President of Malta, George Vella.

CEC Spokesperson Says Election Administration Faces Discrediting Campaign During Briefing

BY LIZA MCHEDLIDZE

The Central Election Commission of Georgia (CEC) held a briefing yesterday where the press spokesperson stated that an ongoing campaign is attempting to discredit the election administration.

According to Natia Ioseliani, the CEC spokesperson, they want to respond to the recent surge of groundless accusations, misinformation, and discrediting statements directed at the election administration, which has become particularly prominent over the past two days.

Ioseliani added that the election administration and its representatives have been subjected to frequent attacks by politicians, with allegations being

made that the elections in Georgia are being falsified and that CEC is working in the interest of the government. Natia Ioseliani also mentioned that such statements not only discredit specific individuals but also undermine the election process as a whole.

"We would like to respond to another wave of groundless accusations, misinformation and discrediting statements addressed to the election administration, which has become particularly acute in the last 2 days.

The election administration, as well as specific persons representing it, have repeatedly become the object of attacks by politicians, accusations are



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constantly heard that the elections in the country are being falsified and that the administration is in the interest of the government, although none of them has ever presented the facts confirming the accusations. People who talk about high standards of democracy, unfortunately, forget the presumption of

innocence in relation to election administrators, and with their statements, they discredit not only specific individuals but the election process in general," Ioseliani said.

Ioseliani expressed disappointment that the 'discrediting' campaign was initiated by a representative of the election administration of the Lelo party.

According to Ioseliani, it is unfortunate that the successes

are being ignored due to political interests and agendas.

"It is especially sad that this time the mentioned campaign started with a statement made by a representative of the election administration who belongs to the Lelo party in the CEC. Any representative of the election administration, and even more so one of the leading persons, knows very well how many resources are spent in order to

conduct elections in Georgia with high standards, professionally. They clearly see the advantage of the system, the implementation of which is now the main concern of the election administration. They see the obvious success that the election administration has in this direction and it is sad that all these successes are being ignored because of political interests and agendas," Ioseliani said.

Ioseliani emphasized the importance of noting that the election administration is not involved in the ongoing recruitment process of the election administration within the legislative body. She reminded the public that the CEC is an independent administrative body that operates within its legal authority and is separate from other state entities.

The News in Brief

PREPARED BY MESSENGER STAFF

Portugal's Defense Minister Discusses Bilateral Cooperation with Georgian Counterpart During Working Visit



During a working visit to Georgia, Portugal's Defense Minister Helena Carreiras met with Georgia's Defense Minister

Juansher Burchuladze. Following an official welcome ceremony, the two held a bilateral meeting at the Ministry of Defense where they discussed international security matters and the current challenges.

Their conversation also delved into the prospects for future bilateral cooperation and topics

received thanks from Juansher Burchuladze for Portugal's unwavering support towards Georgia's territorial integrity and sovereignty. He also expressed gratitude for Portugal's support for Georgia's aspirations towards joining the European Union and NATO.

During the meeting, the joint contribution of military personnel from both countries in ensuring international security was highlighted.

The defense ministers agreed to develop bilateral cooperation further and signed a document outlining mutual cooperation between the Ministry of National Defense of the Republic of Portugal and the Ministry of Defense of Georgia.

Parliament of Georgia Chairman Shalva Papuashvili Meets with Malta's Foreign and European Affairs Committee Members

During a meeting between The Chairman of the Parliament of Georgia Shalva Papuashvili

and the members of the Foreign and European Affairs Committee of the Parliament of the Republic of Malta, the Maltese parliamentarians voiced their complete support for Georgia's territorial integrity and sovereignty, as well as its aspirations for EU



membership.

The two parties discussed The European Union as a unique project for peace and prosperity, which is open to all willing states. The Maltese parliamentarians shared their experience of joining the EU and expressed their willingness to provide detailed

information to Georgia.

Papuashvili thanked the members of the Foreign and European Affairs Committee for their strong support, and he provided them with information regarding Georgia's progress and expectations in the implementation of

EU recommendations.

The sides discussed a wide range of issues, including the agenda of the parliaments of Georgia and Malta, security challenges in the Black Sea region, opportunities for bilateral cooperation, and ways to deepen the relations between the two countries.

Ursula von der Leyen announces 11th package of sanctions in Kyiv: focus on circumvention

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen today unveiled in Kyiv the 11th package of sanctions the European Commission has prepared.

With this package, the Commission aims to sharpen the



EU's existing tools, adding more products to the EU transit ban (for example, advanced tech products or aircraft parts) and proposing a new tool to combat sanctions circumvention.

"If we see that goods are going from the European Union through third countries and end up in Russia, we could propose to the member states to sanction those goods," explained von der Leyen at a joint press conference with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy.

The Commission also proposes to ban "shadow" entities from Russia and third countries that are intentionally circumventing EU's sanctions.

"We continue to do everything in our power to erode Putin's war machine and his revenues," said von der Leyen.

Von der Leyen arrived in the Ukrainian capital Kyiv by train this morning to take part in the Europe Day celebrations.

(euneighbourseast.eu)

Weather

Wednesday, May 10

Day Partly Cloudy
High: 22°C

Night Few Showers
Low: 12°C

Thursday, May 11

Day Mostly Cloudy
High: 20°C

Night Light Rain
Low: 12°C

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