

Prime Minister Gharibashvili Emphasizes EU Candidate Status as Crucial for Minimizing Polarization in Georgia



BY LIZA MCHEDLIDZE

According to Irakli Gharibashvili, the Prime Minister of Georgia, the key message delivered to European colleagues emphasized that granting Georgia the status of an EU membership candidate

would automatically reduce and minimize polarization within the country.

"One of the main points I conveyed to our European colleagues was that if Europe and Europeans genuinely desire to witness a reduction in polarization, granting candidate status to Georgia

would naturally lead to the minimization of polarization within the country. This quality would be automatically diminished. They listened to this argument, and I believe they found it compelling," stated Gharibashvili.

The Prime Minister of Georgia ex-

pressed pride in the government's tangible efforts towards the country's European integration and NATO membership. He highlighted significant achievements, including signing the association agreement for free trade, establishing a visa-free regime, and submitting the official application for European perspective. The Prime Minister emphasized continuous efforts in the NATO integration process, with Georgian troops actively participating in missions in Afghanistan, Iraq, and the Central African Republic. He expressed confidence that the collective dedication and motivation would yield concrete results, bringing Georgia closer to Europe and NATO.

"If any government has made significant progress on the path towards our country's European integration, as well as towards NATO, it is our government. Personally, I had the privilege of signing the association agreement for free trade and establishing a visa-free regime. During my tenure, we fulfilled the obligations and achieved the visa-free regime. I also had the honor of signing the official application submitted last year, which resulted in obtaining a European perspective. Regarding NATO, our efforts have not ceased. We have been one of the main contributors, with our troops deployed in Afghanistan, Iraq, and during my prime ministership, we sent troops to the Central African Republic. I firmly believe that our strong desire and motivation will yield concrete results. Together, we should strive to bring our country even closer to Europe and NATO," the Prime Minister said.

Irakli Gharibashvili Accuses Zelensky of Aligning with Destructive Opposition's Statements

BY LIZA MCHEDLIDZE

During the European Political Community summit, President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelensky stated that European countries bordering Russia need to join both the European Union (EU) and NATO to prevent Russia from potentially threatening their sovereignty. Zelensky argued that failing to take such steps would leave these countries with two alternatives: either engaging in direct military conflict or experiencing a creeping occupation by Russia.

Zelensky highlighted the ongoing situations in Belarus and Georgia as examples of nations being influenced and destabilized by Russia. He acknowledged that these situations may differ in their specific circumstances, but emphasized the common thread of nations being drawn into disorder.

Prime Minister Irakli Gharibashvili stated that he refrains from commenting on President Zelensky's statement. He expressed concerns about potential misinterpretations by "ill-intentioned" individuals who may exploit his



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Exchange Rates: US Dollar - 2.6396; Euro - 2.8278; GBP - 3.2897; 100 Russian Ruble - 3.2577; Swiss Franc - 2.9074

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comments, hence choosing to avoid providing any basis for speculation.

The PM accused President Zelensky of aligning his statements with hostile forces of Georgia, particularly referring to a 'destructive' opposition that, in his

view, hinders progress towards European integration.

"This was the first time President Zelensky attended this meeting. I feel very sorry for what is happening in Ukraine – cities, infrastructure, and more are being destroyed every day. Children, women, and the elderly are all affected

by this brutal, cruel war. I would like to wish the warring country peace, a swift end to this war, and eventual reconciliation. Regarding Zelensky's statement, I cannot comment as this country is at war, he is also at war, and I don't want to provide a basis or opportunity for ill-wishers of our country to speculate. It is

sad that Zelensky's and his government's statements align with the hostile forces operating within our country. By that, I mean the destructive opposition, which fails to make progress even in terms of European integration, preventing our country from achieving the desired status," said Gharibashvili.

The News in Brief

PREPARED BY MESSENGER STAFF

Charles Michel Expresses Strong Belief in Georgia's EU Future and Emphasizes Government's Role in Decision-Making



President of the European Council, Charles Michel, conveyed strong belief in Georgia's future as a part of the EU family. He emphasized that the correct decisions rest with the Georgian government. Ahead of the second summit of the European Political Community, Michel highlighted that the government's appropriate decisions would be considered acceptable for implementing the required reforms.

Michel conveyed that the Georgian people are aware of his personal support as well as the support of the European Union. He emphasized that the people

of Georgia can rely on this support moving forward.

Michel expressed his hope for a forthcoming window of opportunity, enabling a clear choice to be made. He emphasized that this choice should not be made solely to please Brussels, but rather to ensure that Georgia's future is firmly rooted in funda-

mental European values such as peace, prosperity, and economic and social development.

Regarding the potential for granting Georgia the status of a candidate member of the European Union by the end of the year, C

Michel outlined a clear political agenda. He noted that the EU acknowledges the significance of advancing the EU enlargement process. After the summer, the European Commission will release a written opinion on the topic of enlargement. Michel reiterated his intention to bring this matter to the agenda by the end of the year.

"We have a very clear political agenda. On the one hand, the EU side is aware of the importance of taking steps in the EU enlargement process. The European Commission will publish a written opinion on the subject of enlargement after the summer.

I will reiterate my plan to include this topic on the agenda by the end of the year," Michel said.

Kakha Kaladze Emphasizes Importance of Utilizing International Platforms for Georgia's EU Candidate Status

Tbilisi Mayor Kakha Kaladze emphasized the significance of utilizing international platforms for the country to achieve candidate status for EU membership.



He asserted that Georgia surpasses other countries that have received this status in all aspects.

"For me, as a citizen of this country, it is important that all people use international platforms, which are presented in different ways. The Prime Minister goes around making announcements, talking about our European future. We should use all the platforms available to us in order to achieve the desired status. Frankly speaking, if any country deserved to receive that status, it would be ours, as we are ahead of all the countries that have already obtained it in all respects."

Weather

Friday, June 2

Day Partly Cloudy

High: 26°C

Night Light Rain

Low: 15°C

Saturday, June 3

Day Partly Cloudy

High: 27°C

Night Mostly Cloudy

Low: 16°C

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ROYAL DISTRICT THEATRE

MAKA MAKHARADZE'S BALLET STUDIO AND ETERI ANDJAPARIDZE'S "PIANOTHEATRE"

present

Sergel Prokofiev

PETER AND THE WOLF

(Musical Fairy Tale)

Samuel Barber

SOUVENIRS

(The Plaza Hotel Divertissement)

Cast:

Eteri Andjaparidze & Datuna Aladashvili
Piano Duo

„Vera District Dance Class“ Students

Actors: Maka Makharadze,
Nata Murvanidze, Tamar Makashvili,
Nika Tetradze

Choreographer: Gvantsa Gavasheli

Costume designer: Anka Kalatozishvili

Manager: Nino Metreveli

Project Director: Maka Makharadze

Performances are dedicated:

Thursday, 1 June

To International Children's
Protection Day

Friday, 2 June

to Lexo Toradze

Saturday, 3 June

to Temur Chkheidze

2023

20:00

Royal District Theatre,
10 Gia Abesadze Street, Tbilisi

Tickets: <https://biletebi.ge/maka-makharadze-ballet-studio/Schedule>

The Ambassador of Japan H.E. Mr. Imamura Akira and Mrs. Imamura held a Bid Farewell Reception on May 31.











