

## Chairman of Parliament Calls for Apologies over 'Falsehoods' and 'Disinformation' Spread About Saakashvili and Sanctions Evasion

BY LIZA MCHEDLIDZE

Shalva Papuashvili, the Chairman of the Parliament, has called for two apologies. The first apology is related to the dissemination of falsehoods about Saakashvili, both domestically and internationally. The second apology is expected for spreading disinformation regarding the evasion of sanctions.

According to Papuashvili, the plan involved radical opposition and non-governmental organizations to a significant extent.

"This represents a second setback for the opposition and certain non-governmental organizations, following the suppression and disruption of Saakashvili's false propaganda. The recent decision by the Strasbourg court exposed a year-and-a-half-long disinformation campaign against Georgia, both domestically and internationally, falsely portraying the mistreatment of Saakashvili. Additionally, yesterday marked the definitive end to a more than year-long disinformation campaign that falsely alleged sanctions circumvention using Georgia, originating from both within and outside the country. In this regard, representatives responsible for European Union, United States, and Great Britain sanctions coordination publicly commended the institutional strength of Georgian authorities, confirming that there has been no evidence of the country's involvement in sanctions circumvention. Private discussions on this matter also took place, further exemplifying the hostile nature of the radical opposition and non-governmental organizations towards their own country," Papuashvili stated.

Papuashvili highlighted the prevalence of misinformation in the European Parliament's resolution, which contained false assertions about Georgia evading sanctions. He called for apologies from



opposition parties, non-governmental organizations, and politicians who wrongly accused Georgia. Specifically, Papuashvili requested two apologies—one for the dissemination of fake news about Saakashvili and the other for the spread of disinformation regarding sanctions circumvention.

"It is important to recall all the statements made, which unfortunately reiterated the level of misinformation present in the European Parliament's resolution.

The two resolutions contained hints and direct assertions suggesting that Georgia was evading sanctions. Such a pervasive disinformation campaign against Georgia led the European Parliament to receive two resolutions containing direct falsehoods, as confirmed yesterday. Once again, we emphasize the need for an apology regarding Saakashvili from both opposition parties within the country, certain non-governmental organizations, and politicians outside the country who

falsely accused Georgia of evading sanctions. Up until now, we have not received an apology concerning Saakashvili, and this issue further adds to our request for two apologies. Firstly, we seek an apology regarding Saakashvili, addressing the dissemination of fake news within and outside the country. Secondly, we expect an apology for the spread of disinformation regarding sanctions circumvention," Papuashvili said.



## Georgia Takes Responsibility and Asserts Commitment to Defending Financial Sanctions, Affirms Minister of Foreign Affairs

BY LIZA MCHEDLIDZE

The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Georgia, Ilia Darchiashvili, emphasized that Georgia has taken timely responsibility and publicly declared its firm commitment to defending matters concerning financial sanctions. This reaffirms the consistent message conveyed by Georgia to its partners, as they have now witnessed firsthand the actions corresponding to Georgia's daily discussions.

"Yesterday marked the con-

clusion of a highly significant visit to Georgia by the EU special representative, David O'Sullivan, responsible for coordinating EU-related sanction matters. Accompanying him were esteemed diplomats Jim O'Brien from the USA, who also focuses on this subject, and Kumar Iyer from Great Britain. The presence of our partners in this format highlights the great importance of their visit," expressed Ilia Darchiashvili.

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Exchange Rates: US Dollar - 2.6177; Euro - 2.8591; GBP - 3.3132; 100 Russian Ruble - 3.0089; Swiss Franc - 2.9212

## Georgia Takes Responsibility and Asserts Commitment to Defending Financial Sanctions, Affirms Minister of Foreign Affairs

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As per the Minister's remarks, the guests were given the opportunity to witness the

actions undertaken in Georgia and the extensive efforts made by the government in navigating this challenging situation.

"In general, we exemplify a responsible country and government. We assumed responsibility at the appropriate moment and publicly declared Georgia's unwavering commitment to safeguarding matters pertaining to financial sanctions. This commitment has been reaffirmed once again, allowing our partners to witness firsthand the realities we discuss on a daily basis. Georgia will continue its active efforts in this regard, closely coordinating with our

partners," said Darchiashvili. The Foreign Ministry's leader also addressed the statements put forth by the opposition representatives. "Once again, our opponents have shown their anger, as we have frequently heard their unfounded evaluations and accusations. These actions stem from their narrow political agenda and have caused harm to the reputation and image of our country. We have also encountered baseless statements from

numerous European journalists and politicians who have been influenced by them, regarding Georgia. Moving forward, we will persist in our efforts to ensure that Georgia continues to improve upon the results we have achieved," stated Darchiashvili.

He emphasized that Georgia's strength lies in the truth, and there have been no documented instances of Georgia evading financial sanctions since the start of hostilities.

### The News in Brief

PREPARED BY MESSENGER STAFF

#### Latvia's Prime Minister Urges EU Expansion and Strong Response to Russian Actions in Ukraine, Moldova, Georgia, and Balkans



The Prime Minister of Latvia, Krisjanis Karins, emphasized the significance of European Union expansion and the inclusion of more member states. He

highlighted that Russia's actions demonstrate the absence of room for an intermediate or gray zone. According to Karins, any country aspiring to join the EU must fulfill all the required standards.

Karins emphasized the need to respond appropriately to Russia's actions, particularly in the cases of Ukraine, Moldova,

and concerted efforts from the European Union are vital in accomplishing this task.

"Russia is looking at the gray area to attack a country, and we have to respond accordingly in the case of Ukraine, Moldova, Georgia, and also the Balkans," said Karins. "Any potential member state must meet all standards and implement reforms, that's for sure, but we must encourage it and work on it as a task of the European Union."

#### Kaja Kallas Urges Georgia to Fully Comply with EU Criteria, Emphasizes Support for Enlargement

The Prime Minister of Estonia, Kaja Kallas, expressed endorsement for the expansion of the European Union. She conveyed to Georgia, Ukraine, and Moldova that they must fully meet all the criteria without any exceptions. No concessions will be made to them in this regard. These remarks were made prior to the commencement of the

European Union leaders' summit.

Kallas stressed that meeting the criteria is essential for start-



ing negotiations and acknowledged that Georgia's progress is more complicated. However, there is still time to work on any remaining requirements.

"We support the enlargement of the European Union. We conveyed to Ukraine and Moldova that they must fulfill the criteria completely without any ben-

efits. Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine must fulfill all the criteria. Therefore, if the criteria are met, it would be fair to ini-

tiate negotiations. These reforms are challenging, but they are necessary. Georgia poses a greater complexity when discussing progress. If you observe a report regarding the fulfillment of the criteria, there is still time to work on it. Thus, all the criteria must be fulfilled," stated Kallas.

## EU Sanctions Envoy in Tbilisi: Georgia takes serious steps to avoid becoming platform to circumvent sanctions against Russia

Georgian authorities are taking very seriously the issue of not allowing the country to be used as a platform for circumvention, the EU Sanctions Envoy David O'Sullivan said yesterday in Tbilisi.

O'Sullivan is currently visiting various countries to make sure they are not circumventing



or facilitating the circumvention of EU sanctions against Russia over Russia's full-scale war against Ukraine.

"In particular, we are focused on 38 battlefield products, which are found on the battlefield by the Ukrainians, and which are used to make Russian weapons more lethal, smarter, and more deadly," O'Sullivan told a press conference in Tbilisi.

According to the EU Sanctions Envoy, Georgia is not implementing EU sanctions despite its aspirations to be a member of the European Union. "We under-

stand the very specific situation in which Georgia finds itself both economically, in terms of geography, and in terms of close contacts with Russia in many ways. So, we understand that they're not going to implement our sanctions," said O'Sullivan.

At the same time, O'Sullivan said, "both on the issue of dual-use and on the issue of the 38 battlefield products, we are very satisfied with the systems of checking and monitoring, which the Georgian authorities have put in place to make sure that these products do not find their way to Russia from this country."

He added that the EU has "no desire to undermine or prevent the legitimate trade between Georgia and Russia", but, in his view, "trade with Europe offers a better perspective [to Georgia] than trade with Russia".

(euneighbourseast.eu)

### Weather

Friday, June 30

Day ☀️ Clear  
High: 29°C

Night 🌧️ Partly Cloudy  
Low: 16°C

Saturday, July 1

Day ☀️ Clear  
High: 27°C

Night 🌙 Clear  
Low: 15°C

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