

BY LIZA MCHEDLIDZE

## Georgia and Croatia Celebrate Embassy Inauguration in Zagreb

The opening of the Georgian Embassy in Zagreb was marked by warm expressions of gratitude and commitment to friendship and partnership between Georgia and Croatia. Prime Minister Irakli Gharibashvili of Georgia expressed deep appreciation for Croatia's unwavering support in Georgia's pursuit of a European future.

During the inauguration ceremony, Prime Minister Gharibashvili praised the choice of the embassy's location, which offers a breathtaking view, and expressed his delight at his first official visit to Croatia. He thanked Prime Minister Plenkovic for the warm hospitality and highlighted Croatia's consistent support for Georgia's sovereignty, territorial integrity, and Euro-Atlantic aspirations.

"Croatia has always been a strong supporter of Georgia's European future. I extend heartfelt appreciation for your support and friendship. The opening of our embassy in Zagreb is a clear testament to our keen interest in fostering friendship and partnership with Croatia," stated Gharibashvili.

In return, Prime Minister Andrej Plenkovic warmly welcomed the Georgian delegation and conveyed his admiration for the acapella performance during the event. He expressed Croatia's commitment to respecting Georgia's territorial integrity and sovereignty, while also supporting its European and transatlantic aspirations.

"One year ago, we stood in



support of granting Georgia a European perspective. Today, we eagerly await the fulfillment of the criteria set forth by the Georgian government, paving the way for accession negotiations at the EU level," reaffirmed Prime

Minister Plenkovic.

Additionally, Croatia applauded Georgia's remarkable progress in security and defense and expressed its welcoming stance towards Georgia's future membership in NATO, subject

to meeting the required criteria.

Through these affirmations, both nations underscored their dedication to strengthening their bond and fostering cooperation on their shared journey towards a brighter European future. The

inauguration of the Georgian Embassy in Zagreb serves as a significant milestone in advancing the friendship and partnership between Georgia and Croatia.

## Minister of Foreign Affairs of Georgia Ilia Darchiashvili Meets with Croatian Counterpart Gordan Grlic-Radman

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Within the framework of the official visit of the Prime Minister of Georgia to the Republic of Croatia, Minister of Foreign Affairs Ilia Darchiashvili had a meeting with his Croatian counterpart, Gordan Grlic-Radman.

According to the press service of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the meeting covered all current issues on the agenda of bilateral and multilateral relations, and the prospects of deepening cooperation in various fields were discussed.

Both sides emphasized the importance of actively continuing the high-level political dialogue and the significance of bilateral high-level visits.

Attention was also focused on the need to strengthen economic

and trade relations between the two countries, highlighting the importance of the economic cooperation agreement signed earlier that year.

Darchiashvili provided information to the Croatian Minister of Foreign and European Affairs about Georgia's progress in implementing the 12 priorities of the European Commission.

The Georgian side expressed hope that the progress and reforms implemented in various areas would be properly recognized and appreciated by European partners. Additionally, the meeting highlighted the significance of sharing and supporting Croatia's experience on its path to joining the European Union.

Discussions also addressed the challenging situation in the occupied territories of Georgia concerning security, human rights, and humanitarian issues.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs expressed gratitude to his Croatian colleague for Croatia's strong support for Georgia's sovereignty, territorial integrity, and its European aspirations.



The News in Brief

PREPARED BY MESSENGER STAFF

Prime Minister Irakli Garibashvili Anticipates Fair and 'Political' Decision from Europe in December



Georgian Prime Minister Irakli Garibashvili expressed high hopes for the future as he addressed a joint briefing with the Croatian Prime Minister in Zagreb. He emphasized the significance of an impending decision from Europe, one he considers both fair and strategic, regarding Georgia's candidacy for Euro-

pean Union membership. "In recent years, Georgia has achieved excellent results in ensuring the rule of law, democracy, economic development, and social justice, garnering recognition from authoritative international organizations. The pursuit of ideal freedom mo-

tivated Georgia's desire to join the European Union, and we are now closer to this national goal than ever before. Visa liberalization and the Association Agreement with the European Union, including a deep and comprehensive free trade area, are achievements attained through tremendous efforts by our government.

Last year, the European Council - representing the leaders of the European Union - made a momentous decision by recognizing Georgia's European perspective, thereby setting an unprecedented milestone on the path to European integration. More than a year has passed since this historic decision, and we have unequivocally demonstrated our strong determination to fulfill our obligations and become a member of the European Union," said the Prime Minister.

Mikheil Saakashvili Appoints Sopho Japaridze as Representative

On the social network, the third president of Georgia shared his request to

Sopho Japaridze, asking her to be his representative both domestically and internationally. The president clarified that this role does not replace any party, despite Japaridze being an active leader in the council.

The Former president acknowledged that there are many other pressing issues, some of which may or may not be related to politics. He expressed satisfaction with their longstanding cooperation, highlighting Japaridze's talent and the high level of public trust she enjoys.

Due to his current situation, Saakashvili is unable to fully communicate with the public and as a result, he asked Japaridze to personally disseminate his statements on his behalf until he regains the opportunity to do so himself.



Keep Calm and eat the vegetables: #GoVeg with the YEA cookbook



together a variety of recipes from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine to help you #GoVeg, for your health and the health of the planet.

Our YEAs have dug into their childhood memories and their grandmas' kitchens to share recipes that range from peasant staples to special fasting foods traditionally cooked for lent. From pancakes and dumplings to bright greens and luscious aubergines, they'll take you on a journey across the rich culinary traditions of the Eastern Partnership.

So, keep calm, stay cool and #GoVeg - open the YEA cookbook, start travelling and get cooking! (euneighbourseast.eu)

Feel the PAWer of Love: EU-supported pet festival takes place in Georgian town of Zugdidi



On 20 July, the town of Zugdidi hosted a festival #FeelThePAWerOfLove that united pet lovers, local civil society organisations, volunteers, and Zugdidi residents.

The festival was supported by the European Union and UNDP as part of their joint EU4Dialogue programme that supports initiatives fostering an environment for dialogue and people-to-people contact in the respective Eastern Partnership countries.

Festival participants led a discussion on responsible pet own-

ership, emphasizing the importance of adopting pets from shelters or from the streets, giving them a second chance. They also emphasised the importance of regular veterinary care, neutering and vaccination to ensure the well-being of pets.

The event also shed light on the challenges faced by communities living along administrative boundaries. The economic and social problems of people affected by the conflict are exacerbated by the growing population of stray animals.

(euneighbourseast.eu)

Weather

Tuesday, July 25

Day Mostly Cloudy High: 30°C

Night T-storm Low: 19°C

Wednesday, July 26

Day Showers High: 31°C

Night Partly Cloudy Low: 22°C

Cooking lots of vegetarian meals is a fantastic way to improve our sustainable lifestyle. And why not do so while learning more about the cuisines and cultures of the countries of the Eastern Partnership?

To get you started, the Young European Ambassadors have put

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