

## Prime Minister Irakli Garibashvili Meets with EBRD First Vice President Jürgen Rigterink

By Liza Mchedlidze

Georgian Prime Minister Irakli Garibashvili held a meeting with Jürgen Rigterink, the First Vice President of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD).

During the meeting, the discussion focused on the ongoing and upcoming projects in Georgia that are being carried out with EBRD's assistance.

The Prime Minister expressed gratitude to the Vice President of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development for their support. It was emphasized that EBRD plays a crucial role in aligning with strategic objectives, facilitating the implementation of significant reforms.

During the meeting, it was highlighted that the EBRD has a portfolio of approximately 5 billion euros in Georgia, spanning across 287 projects. A significant 82% of these investments are directed towards the private sector.

The Prime Minister provided the EBRD Vice President with an update on Georgia's economic trends. It was underscored that despite the challenging regional context, Georgia continues to exhibit consistent growth in its economic indicators.

The meeting also delved into Georgia's ongoing and forthcoming structural reforms within the transport and logistics sectors. This included discussions on substantial investment projects, notably the potential of the Middle Corridor and the Georgian Government's vision for the development of Black Sea port infrastructure. Additionally, specific projects such as the



new Tbilisi International Airport and the Anaklia Deep-Sea Port were addressed.

The discussions also encompassed top-

ics related to energy security and investment opportunities within this sector.

They explored Georgia's energy potential

and emphasized the significance of investments in renewable resources as part of the conversation.

## Mamuka Mdinardze Asserts President Zourabichvili's Meeting with Macron Constitutes Yet Another Constitution Violation

By Liza Mchedlidze



The Executive Secretary of the ruling Georgian Dream party, Mamuka Mdinardze, remarked that President Salome Zourabichvili is causing discomfort among European leaders with her uncoordinated and unplanned visits, putting them in an 'uncomfortable' position. According to Mdinardze, Salome Zourabichvili's actions constitute a blatant violation of the constitution.

Mdinardze assessed Salome Zourabichvili's visit to France and her meeting with President Emmanuel Macron. He stated that Zourabichvili did not have the government's approval for the meeting with Macron and showed up uninvited without any prior notice.

"Zourabichvili was missing for four days, completely disappearing, and then she reappeared in a country with a leader without even seeking consent, demonstrating a clear violation of Georgia's Constitution," Mdinardze said.

According to Mdinardze, Zourabichvili is creating a false impression of working on Georgia's EU candidacy status by blatantly breaching the constitution. He also added that the government's decision to initiate impeachment proceedings against the president was valid.

"The government's decision was morally, legally, and ethically sound from every perspective. When the president states that the candidate status did not belong to us last year or this year, and that she will leave, perhaps then they will grant it to us, it is extremely detrimental," Mdinardze stated.

The News in Brief

PREPARED BY MESSENGER STAFF

Georgian President Salome Zourabichvili Meets with French President Emmanuel Macron in Paris



Salome Zourabichvili, the President of Georgia, held a meeting with French President Emmanuel Macron in Paris. Zourabichvili personally shared a video of the meeting on her social media platform.

In the video, President Zourabichvili mentioned that she had a productive discussion with the French President concerning Georgia's EU candidacy status.

The French President stated that he had hosted the President of Georgia for discussions on Georgia's EU candidacy and the future of the region.

"Also, I want to express my support for the brave fight for democracy, the rule of law, and what I believe to be the future of the Georgian people – a truly European path.

"I wish you all the best of luck. I will continue to support Ms President on this journey in the coming days, months, and years, which is very important for both you and us," said Macron.

Georgian Parliament Raises Vote Requirement for CEC Chairperson

Parliament has increased the number of votes required for CEC Election Administration of Georgia's Chairperson again.

According to the upcoming changes to the election code, electing the chairman will now necessitate 90 votes (3/5 majority). In cases where 90 votes cannot be obtained, the election will proceed with 76 votes (simple majority). The parliament is set to expedite the consideration

of this bill.

As per the proposed legislation, candidates can receive support with 76 votes on two occasions, and those elected with

76 votes will commence their 5-year term in office. If even 76 votes cannot be gathered, the matter will be referred to the president for a decision.

the President. Additionally, the Speaker of the Parliament will be responsible for submitting nominations for the CEC Chairperson and CEC members to the Parliament.



The amendments to the electoral legislation and parliamentary regulations will maintain the provision that the Speaker of the Parliament will initiate the candidate selection process instead of

the President. Additionally, the Speaker of the Parliament will be responsible for submitting nominations for the CEC Chairperson and CEC members to the Parliament.

The exhibition 'Missing Home' by Hailey Sadler

The project "Missing Home" explores the psychological and emotional experience of Ukrainian families who have arrived in Georgia as they wrestle with memories of what they witnessed and left behind.

Ukraine has become a land of missing homes. More than hundred thousand residential buildings have been damaged or destroyed. Neighboring countries are flooded with devastated families grieving the loss of home and homeland.

An award-winning collection of photographs are created by US photographer and National Geographic Explorer Hailey Sadler. She spent August 2022 in Tbilisi, documenting the daily life of Ukrainian refugees forced to flee their homes due to the ongoing war in Ukraine.

The exhibition was held within the Kolga Tbilisi Photo Festival at the "Hermit Space" gallery in

early May. This time, Gori Art House will host "Missing Home" from 8<sup>th</sup> of September onwards.

The exhibition is curated by Annie Davarashvili, who worked with Hailey Sadler on the project throughout August.

This project is a cross-cultural collaboration between the Georgian organization Museograph and the Home Collective, a U.S.-based platform co-founded by Hailey Sadler.

The project is funded by the U.S. Embassy in Tbilisi.

Hailey Sadler is a photographer, National Geographic Explorer, and conflict and migration specialist based out of Washington, D.C. She has a decade of experience across government, media, and foreign affairs, including as senior staff for legislators in the House Armed Services and Intelligence Committees in the U.S. Congress. She holds a Master of International Public Policy concentrating on international conflict from the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies. Her research and long-term reporting have been supported by



grants from the National Geographic Society, Getty Images, Adobe, the IWMF, and Solutions Journalism Network, and published in The New York Times, The Washington Post, PBS Newshour, CNN, as well as exhibited worldwide.

www.haileysadler.com  
instagram.com/haileysadler

Exhibition opening: September 8 | 18.00

Exhibition duration: September 8-30, 2023.

Venue: Art House, 5, Guramishvili Str, Gori, Georgia

Weather

Thursday, September 7

Day ☀️ Clear  
High: 30°C

Night 🌧️ T-storm  
Low: 18°C

Friday, September 8

Day 🌧️ Showers  
High: 24°C

Night 🌧️ T-storm  
Low: 17°C

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