

Joseph Borrell Emphasizes Serious Reforms as Crucial for Georgia's EU Candidacy During His First Official Visit to Tbilisi

BY LIZA MCHEDLIDZE

During his first official visit to Georgia, Josep Borrell, the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, held a press conference during which he stated that the European Union's door remains open to Georgia. However, he emphasized that substantial effort is required on this journey, and there is still a considerable amount of work that needs to be accomplished in Georgia. According to him, EU membership is a serious commitment, and candidate status is not automatically granted; it must be earned through 'serious reforms'.

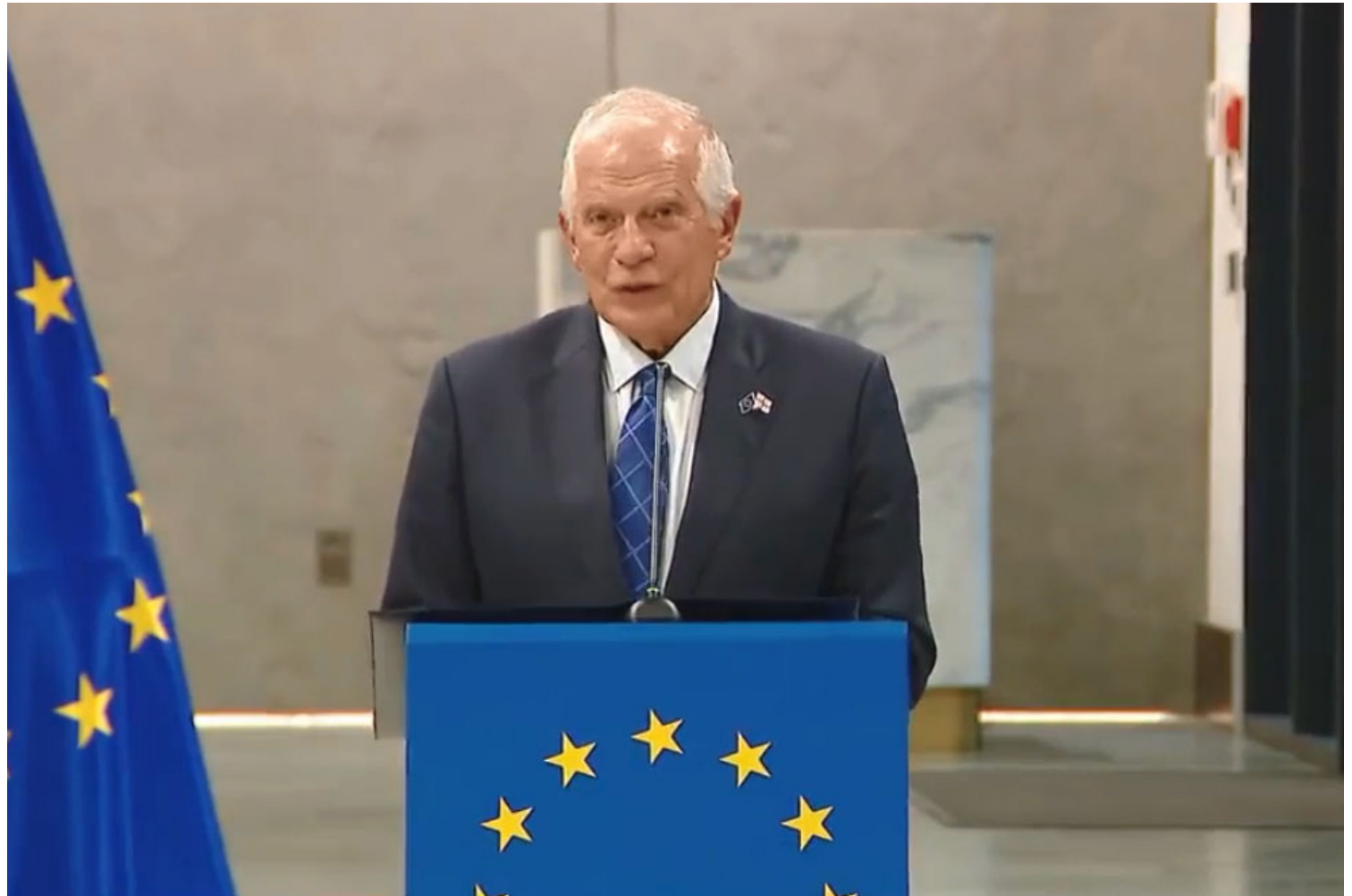
Regarding the 12 priorities, Borrell emphasized that in Georgia's case, the efforts to fulfill these 12 priorities are not directed at pleasing Brussels or satisfying EU member states. Instead, the ultimate goal is to improve the quality of life for the citizens of Georgia.

The EU High Representative also emphasized the importance of unity on the journey towards the EU, stating, "All actors need to work together constructively and remain united; unity is more important than ever."

According to Borrell, he observed numerous European Union flags in Tbilisi and acknowledged that 80% of the country's population desires to join the European Union. Therefore, he expressed his gratitude to those individuals who are actively safeguarding Georgia's European future.

"Because in a few weeks, the EU will consider the next steps in Georgia's accession to the EU path, and for the first time, the important Georgia progress as an enlargement country I want to be very clear in that important moment, the EU door is open to Georgia and EU is committed to support Georgia on its path towards EU membership.

To be frank, there is still quite a bit of



work to be done. In Georgia's case, these are the 12 priorities that need to be fulfilled, as set out in European Commission opinion, and the hard work delivering on these 12 priorities is not to please Brussels, it's not to make people happy in Brussels, or to member states of the EU, ultimately, is to improve the lives of the Georgian citizens, living up to the overwhelming EU aspirations of the Georgia people. I see a lot of EU flags on the streets of this city and you know that

80% of the Georgian people support being a member of the EU.

Let me express my appreciation to all those who stand up for the European future for Georgia, Accession is a national task, all actors need to work together constructively, and united, unity is more important than ever," the EU High Representative stated.

As part of his first official visit to Georgia, he will discuss Georgia's progress towards European integration and broader

foreign policy and regional issues. During the visit, Joseph Borrell will meet with the President of Georgia, Salome Zourabichvili, and also with the Prime Minister of Georgia, Irakli Gharibashvili. A joint press conference will be held after the meeting with Gharibashvili.

Borrell will also hold a meeting with Georgia's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Iliia Darchiashvili, and meetings with all political parties represented in the Georgian parliament are scheduled.

Iliia Darchiashvili Highlights Borrell's Visit as a Signal of Georgia's Commitment to Peace and Security Amid Regional Challenges

BY LIZA MCHEDLIDZE

Minister of Foreign Affairs of Georgia, Iliia Darchiashvili, informed reporters before the start of the visit by the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Josep Borrell, that this visit carries special significance.

According to Darchiashvili, the government of Georgia welcomed Borrell quite firmly because they have done a lot of work in the direction of 12 priorities and have fulfilled the obligations.

"The visit will undoubtedly provide new impetus, on one hand, to the relations between Georgia and the European Union, and, on the other hand,

it will have a significant impact on relevant decisions," said Iliia Darchiashvili.

Darchiashvili emphasized that Josep Borrell's visit carries a significant message, underscoring Georgia's focus on 'peace and security' in response to the current situation in the region.

In response to a question about the number of recommendations that have been implemented, Darchiashvili noted that instead of discussing specific numbers, he suggested waiting until October when the report will be issued.

"We're saying that our country stands quite firmly in the direction of the recommendations," he stated.

CONTINUED ON Page 2



Exchange Rates: US Dollar - 2.6251; Euro - 2.8112; GBP - 3.2706; 100 Russian Ruble - 2.6684; Swiss Franc - 2.9413

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CONTINUED FROM Page 1

He stated that when it comes to the implementation of the de-

polarization recommendation, it's challenging to definitively claim its full implementation. "When discussing the imple-

mentation of recommendations, one key aspect is depolarization, and it's quite challenging to definitively assert its fulfillment.

This issue necessitates concrete actions from all involved parties. The Georgian authorities have taken numerous steps towards

depolarization, but there are participants in this process who do not want it," Darchiashvili said.

The News in Brief

PREPARED BY MESSENGER STAFF

President Zourabichvili Affirms Commitment to Upholding Georgia's Constitution



The President of Georgia, Salome Zourabichvili, conveyed in her address to the public that everyone should abandon the idea of her resignation. She affirmed her commitment to fulfilling her constitutional obligation, which involves being where she is supposed to be and going wherever her duties require.

Zourabichvili added that her accountability is solely to the Georgian society since they elected her, and she feels a deep sense of responsibility for the trust they have placed in her.

"That's why I'm not going anywhere. I believe everyone should abandon the idea of my resignation. I am here where I am, and I will fulfill my responsibilities wherever they lead because it is my highest constitutional obligation. I uphold the constitution of this country. I took this oath on the day of my inauguration as the President of Georgia, and I will remain faithful to this oath until the end. This means that the constitution, which guides us, and which I also accepted when changes

were made to it, mandates that all Georgian institutions do everything in their power to promote European integration. I consider this my highest and foremost obligation," the President of Georgia stated.

Ilia Darchiashvili: President Zourabichvili's Impeachment Is Unrelated to Georgia's EU Future

When discussing the impeachment of President Zourabichvili, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ilia Darchiashvili, emphasized that the legality of the matter has been repeatedly clarified and is explicitly stated in the constitution. He added that every citizen and responsible individual is obligated to respect Georgia's fundamental law.

"Let's wait for today's appeal. Connecting this issue has nothing to do with the European future of Georgia, and I urge you not to mislead the public. Regarding this matter, very clear



statements have been made both by the Parliament and the Prime Minister of Georgia. Therefore, we stand by these statements. Legally, it has been explained many times, and it is clearly written in the Constitu-

tion. Thus, every citizen and every responsible person is obliged to respect Georgia's fundamental law. We all have a duty to respect and comply with the Constitution of Georgia," said Darchiashvili.

Weather

Friday, September 8

Day Showers High: 23°C

Night T-storm Low: 18°C

Saturday, September 9

Day Showers High: 23°C

Night Partly Cloudy Low: 14°C

XV საერთაშორისო ფესტივალი
XV INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL

დავის სერენადები
NIGHT SERENADES

აგვისტო 22, ბორჯომი
AUGUST 22, BORJOMI
Hotel BORJOMI LIKANI 19:00

აგვისტო 24-25, ბათუმი
AUGUST 24-25, BATUMI
Ilia Chavchavadze Professional State DRAMA THEATER

სექტემბერი 22-23-24, თბილისი
SEPTEMBER 22-23-24, TBILISI
Tbilisi State CONSERVATOIRE, GRAND HALL 20:00

Festival Base Orchestra
GEORGIAN VIRTUOSI
GEORGIAN PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

საზღვარგარეთის დასრულებული ღონისძიებები
FOUNDERS OF THE FESTIVAL
LILIA ISSAKIDZE

საზღვარგარეთის ხელმძღვანელი
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