

## Georgian Foreign Minister Ilya Darchiashvili Meets with NEAR Director-General Gert Jan Koopman

By Liza Mchedlidze

Within the framework of his visit to Brussels, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Georgia, Ilya Darchiashvili, held a meeting with the Director-General of the European Commission's Directorate-General for Neighborhood and Enlargement Negotiations (DG NEAR), Gert Jan Koopman.

According to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia, the discussion during the meeting addressed the process of Georgia's accession to the European Union, specifically focusing on the implementation of the 12 recommendations from the European Commission. Special attention was given to the priorities identified during the visit of the High Representative, Joseph Borrell, and the Director-General of DG NEAR, Gert Jan Koopman.

"The Minister provided the Director-General with comprehensive information on recent steps taken to implement the recommendations, encompassing legislative and institutional reforms.

The Director-General positively assessed the Georgian side's efforts in fulfilling these priorities. Both parties expressed hope that these efforts would be duly reflected in the European Commission's report.



During the meeting, they reiterated their satisfaction with the visit of high-ranking European Union representa-

tives to Georgia, which served as another demonstration of the European Union's support for Georgia," as mentioned in

the provided information.

The parties agreed to engage in close cooperation for the exchange of information

and assessments regarding the implementation of the 12 priorities.

## Shalva Papuashvili Addresses President Zourabichvili's Meetings with EU Leaders, Asserts She Isn't Official Representative of Georgia

By Liza Mchedlidze

President of Georgia Salome Zourabichvili is continuing her series of meetings with European leaders. She recently met with her Estonian counterpart on September 26 and has scheduled meetings with the presidents of Latvia and Lithuania in the coming days.

Parliament Chairman Shalva Papuashvili commented on President Zourabichvili's meetings with high-ranking EU officials, stating that Zourabichvili can travel freely, visit any country, and engage in various activities, but 'she does not officially represent Georgia due to the absence of a corresponding mandate for such representation'.

"Of course, it is disturbing when the president blatantly and publicly violates the constitution, and this has been happening repeatedly. The president, who should serve as an example of upholding the constitution and the law, puts herself outside the constitution when she demonstratively disregards the rules established by the Georgian people. It's a regrettable situation, but unfortunately, it is our reality.

Recent events have further underscored what we've been discussing in recent days, especially concerning the President's stance on the National Bank, including her recent statement characterizing the National Bank's decision as a 'Russian decision.' In light of such comments, it raises questions about what she can say to his Estonian, Latvian, or Lithuanian colleagues. If the president views a constitutional body in Georgia, such as the National Bank, as making 'Russian decisions,' it becomes challenging to discuss matters of lobbying and Georgia's candidate status with them. This is precisely why the government withheld its consent for the visits," Papuashvili explained.

According to Papuashvili, the ruling team is awaiting the Constitutional Court's decision regarding the impeachment of the President.

"It will be interesting to see the President's position after the Constitutional Court reaches a conclusion regarding whether the President has violated the constitution, it will be interesting to see whether she characterizes that decision as a 'Russian decision,'" Papuashvili stated.





The News in Brief

PREPARED BY MESSENGER STAFF

President of Georgia Salome Zourabichvili Meets with Estonian President Alar Karis



In Tallinn, the President of Georgia, Salome Zourabichvili, met with the President of Estonia, Alar Karis.

According to Georgian President Zourabichvili, Estonia's unwavering support is crucial. "On this crucial path towards

the European candidate status, I held a significant meeting with President Alar Karis of Estonia, a long-standing friend and partner of Georgia.

Your unwavering support is vital for Georgia" President Zourabichvili wrote on Twitter.

President Karis of Estonia also expressed his country's support for Georgia on its journey toward the European Union.

"Had a great meeting with President of Georgia Salome Zourabichvili! Estonia is firmly

committed to supporting Georgia's territorial integrity and Euro-Atlantic integration. We're rooting for Georgia's success on its #EU path!" Karis wrote on Twitter.

Parliament Chair Shalva Papuashvili Meets With Romanian Chamber of Deputies Vice-President Daniel Suci

The Chairman of the Parliament of Georgia, Shalva Papuashvili, met with the Vice-President of the Chamber of Deputies of Romania, Daniel Suci.

According to the reports, the meeting emphasized the strong ties between Georgia and Romania and the fruitful cooperation in various directions. Daniel Suci mentioned that political cooperation between Georgia and Romania has historically been at its highest level. The attention of the meeting was focused on the activation of parliamentary exchanges, including between sectoral committees.

"The parties also discussed the war in Ukraine, Georgia's support for Ukraine, the complex situation in the Caucasus region, the importance of improving connectivity in the Black Sea, and Georgia's accession to the European Union and

ferentiation of Georgia from the other countries of the associated trio will no longer happen, and by the end of the year, the European Union will grant Georgia the status of a candidate country and, together with Ukraine and Moldova, will start accession



NATO. Shalva Papuashvili spoke about the progress and expectations of Georgia's implementation of the 12 recommendations of the European Union. He expressed hope that negative dif-

negotiations with Georgia. Daniel Suci expressed Romania's full support for Georgia's European and Euro-Atlantic future," the press service of the Parliament noted.

On 29 September, public voting closes to select the winners of the Green Skills Award 2023.

Among the ten finalists, unveiled in June by the European Training Foundation, three participants are from Eastern Partnership countries.

The award recognises initiatives that have demonstrated exceptional commitment and innovation in promoting and developing green skills worldwide. This year, the finalists were selected from nearly 600 applications from over 60 countries.

Until 29 September (23:59 CEST), you can cast your vote for one of the participants from Eastern Partnership region:

- TUMO Labs, an initiative of TUMO Centre for Creative Technologies (Armenia), offers a range of cutting-edge courses for students and young professionals

Green Skills Award 2023: vote until 29 September for one of the candidates from Armenia, Georgia and Ukraine!

that put young people in charge of their own learning. In this competition, the programme takes part with a network of

Internet of Things (IoT) weather stations to enable young professionals and teenagers to play their part in monitoring climate

change. - Construct2 (Georgia) is a construction college in Zestaponi that has launched Georgia's first

bricklaying course using aerated concrete blocks. So far, the college, which offers vocational programmes that cater to the specific needs of Georgia's private sector, has trained 200 students.

- Taras Shevchenko National University (Ukraine) has developed a range of courses and educational materials focused on ecological economics, green business, and environmental management. The University also ensures practical experiences for all students in companies providing them with the employment opportunities to contribute to the green transition in Ukraine, which has not stopped despite the Russian aggression.

The winners will be announced at an award ceremony in late 2023.

(euneighbourseast.eu)



Weather

Tuesday, September 26

Day Mostly Cloudy High: 23°C

Night Clear Low: 12°C

Wednesday, September 27

Day Clear High: 24°C

Night Clear Low: 14°C

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