

Foreign Minister Ilia Darchiashvili Says Brussels Visits Focused on Georgia's Ongoing Reforms Toward EU Standards Alignment

BY LIZA MCHEDLIDZE

Foreign Affairs Minister Ilia Darchiashvili has concluded his working visit to Brussels, where he engaged in a series of meetings and discussions. Minister Darchiashvili met with six European Commissioners and other high-ranking officials of the European Union, including a meeting with European Commissioner for Enlargement Policy and Neighborhood Affairs, Oliver Varhelyi.

As part of his visit, the Foreign Affairs Minister also conducted meetings at the European Union's General Directorate for Enlargement and Neighborhood Affairs, as well as at the office of the President of the European Council. Additionally, Minister Darchiashvili had discussions with the permanent representatives of EU member states.

After his visit, the Georgian Minister of Foreign Affairs noted that one of the central topics discussed during the meetings held as part of his visit was Georgia's progress in implementing the 12 recommendations.

Darchiashvili provided an assessment of his trip to Brussels, underscoring the concrete and tangible achievements that Georgia has made in addressing the priorities outlined by the European Commission. Throughout his discussions with the European Commissioners, the primary emphasis remained on Georgia's continuous reform initiatives aimed at aligning with EU standards.

"Recently, Joseph Borrell, the European Union's High Representative, paid an official visit to Georgia. We had highly productive meetings, discussing the specific priorities defined by the European Union for Georgia and the steps Georgia has taken in this regard. Furthermore, I am



currently on a working visit to Brussels, where I have engaged in meetings with several commissioners. During these discussions, we focused on key issues and explored ways to further mobilize commissioner support in our direction.

I had an interesting meeting with Mr. Varhelyi. We discussed the latest devel-

opments in our country regarding the fulfillment of the 12 priorities before the October report. We also addressed the issues forwarded to the Venice Commission, which hold great significance for Brussels, and highlighted the concrete and tangible results that Georgia has recently achieved in this regard.

I once again confirmed to the European Commissioners that the reform agenda remains our top priority. We are committed to continuing our active efforts in this direction to ultimately achieve final membership for our country. This path is challenging but immensely important for us," said Darchiashvili.

EU Ambassador Herczynski Emphasizes Importance of State Institution Independence, Warns of Increased Polarization Over President's Impeachment



BY LIZA MCHEDLIDZE

Pawel Herczynski, the European Union Ambassador to Georgia, participated in a meeting at the National Bank of Georgia. Following the meeting, he emphasized the significance of state institutions' independence, with a particular focus on the National Bank. This emphasis aligns with one of the 12 recommendations issued by the EU as part of Georgia's candidacy status evaluation, and the report assessing these recommendations is set to be published in a month.

"Today, at the meeting, I expressed the European Union's

very strong attitude toward the independence of the National Bank of Georgia - stronger independent state institutions are one of the 12 priorities.

Especially now, one month before the publication of the first report on enlargement, it is crucial that all state institutions in Georgia, and especially the National Bank, remain fully independent.

Therefore, of course, we are interested in the current situation. We, as the European Union, want Georgia - hopefully our future member - to have a very strong and independent national

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Exchange Rates: US Dollar - 2.6732; Euro - 2.8325; GBP - 3.2581; 100 Russian Ruble - 2.7759; Swiss Franc - 2.9292

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bank," EU Ambassador said. Herczynski also commented on Otar Partskhaladze and expressed hope that the relevant authorities in Georgia will conduct an investigation and determine whether he is guilty.

Ambassador of the European Union to Georgia also assessed the impeachment procedure initiated by the 'Georgian Dream' against Georgian President Salome Zourabichvili and stated that it will not help depolarization and, on the contrary, will cause polarization.

"The issue should be decided by the Constitutional Court. However, I can only repeat the words of the EU High Representative that this impeachment procedure will, unfortunately, not contribute to depolarization; on the contrary, it will lead to polarization. I can tell you that I attended

Salome Zourabichvili's speech in the European Parliament, and I personally witnessed her sincere request to the members of the European Parliament regarding the acceptance of candidate status for Georgia. This is not an issue on which I can comment. In the future,

the decision depends on the Constitutional Court. Nevertheless, I can repeat the words of Joseph Borell, who stated that the impeachment procedure against the president will not help in depolarizing the political spectrum of Georgia," the Ambassador said.

The News in Brief

PREPARED BY MESSENGER STAFF

Georgian Foreign Minister Ilia Darchiashvili Meets with European Commissioner for Enlargement and Neighborhood Policy, Oliver Varhelyi

During his working visit to Brussels, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Georgia Ilia Darchiashvili held a meeting with the European Commissioner for Enlargement and Neighborhood Policy, Oliver Varhelyi. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has disseminated information about this meeting. According to the agency, the meeting placed special emphasis

on the implementation of the 12 recommendations issued by the European Commission. "The Minister informed the European Commissioner about the progress made by the Georgian side in fulfilling the priorities set during the visit of the High Representative, Joseph Borrell, and reiterated the country's commitment to further advancement in this direction. The European Commissioner welcomed the efforts of the Georgian side, particularly the recent steps taken to implement the recommendations, and expressed readiness to continue close coordination with the Government of Georgia," the information reads.



President of Georgia Salome Zourabichvili Meets Latvian President Edgars Rinkevics

During her visit to Latvia, the President of Georgia, Salome Zourabichvili, met with President Edgars Rinkevics. As mentioned in the statement released



by the administration of the President of Latvia, Rinkevics emphasized that in order to attain candidate status, Georgia must adhere to the recommendations issued by the European Commission. He also stated that Georgia should join the common foreign and security policy of the European Union, including support-

ing sanctions against Russia. "Given the expectations of Georgian society and significant support for European integration, political forces of Georgia should do everything to use the historic opportunity, fulfill the recommendations of the European Union, and gain candidate status," Rinkevich said.

EU4 Independent Media trains Georgian journalists on how to work in high-risk environments



Twenty-five journalists from 15 media outlets in Georgia have been trained on how to work in high-risk environments in a workshop conducted by the EU4IM (EU4 Independent Media) project, funded by the European Union. The training aimed to equip journalists with practical skills and tactics (including stress management techniques and first aid) that will help them reduce risk when covering protests and unrest. It also teaches digital safety management skills when working in high-risk environments. As part of the training, using virtual reality goggles, participants were able to apply the skills learned in training, working in simulated riots or other hostile environments. (euneighbourseast.eu)

Weather

Wednesday, September 27

Day ☀ Clear High: 24°C
Night 🌙 Clear Low: 13°C

Thursday, September 28

Day ☀ Clear High: 25°C
Night 🌙 Clear Low: 14°C

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