

## Prime Minister Irakli Gharibashvili: All European Leaders Confirm Support for Georgia's Candidate Status



it would be undeserved—a further attempt to oppress the country or treat it unfairly,” Gharibashvili said.

According to the Prime Minister, Georgia is ahead of the countries that have been granted the status of a candidate country for EU membership and reiterated that granting candidacy status is a ‘political’ decision.

“I don’t want to reiterate that our country is ahead of those that currently hold candidate status. Furthermore, as you know, in many areas, our achievements even surpass those of active European Union members. So, I prefer not to dwell on that any further. Of course, we acknowledge that the decision and its rationale may be based on merit, but the key point is our awareness that this is a political decision.

I’ll reiterate once more, when the status was granted to Moldova, Ukraine, and Bosnia-Herzegovina, but not to Georgia, that speaks volumes. Take any measure of performance, whether it’s our achievements in various areas or the performance of the mentioned countries in those same areas, and compare. If we’re discussing merit, from a political perspective, it is certainly justifiable, and it should indeed be a political decision. That’s why I continue to emphasize that yes, this is a political decision,” stated Gharibashvili.

BY LIZA MCHEDLIDZE

Prime Minister Irakli Gharibashvili spoke to journalists about his participation in the third summit of the European Political Union (EPC) in the Spanish city of Granada. He said that

he has received confirmation from all European leaders that they will support Georgia’s candidacy for European Union membership.

“I also had important bilateral meetings with European leaders. I similarly briefed them on this progress and received

confirmation from all European leaders that they will support Georgia’s candidate status.

I also conveyed to them that if the country does not receive this status, it would be absolutely incomprehensible. It would be an insult to our Georgian people, and

BY LIZA MCHEDLIDZE

Russia is planning to establish a new permanent military and naval base in the occupied region of Abkhazia, along the Black Sea coast. An agreement for this purpose has already been signed between Russia and the separatist regime of Abkhazia. Aslan Bzhania, the de facto president of occupied Abkhazia, revealed this during an interview with the Russian publication ‘Izvestia’, following his meeting with Vladimir Putin on October 4.

According to Bzhania, the naval base will soon be established in Ochamchire.

“On our national holiday, a small missile ship arrived, and we boarded it; it’s a highly modern vessel with significant combat capabilities. We’ve signed an agreement, and in the near future, there will be a permanent Russian navy base in the Ochamchire region,” stated Bzhania.

Bzhania also noted, “Military-technical cooperation between Moscow and Sokhumi aims to enhance the defense capabilities of both Russia and Abkhazia.”

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia has responded to the upcoming establishment of a Russian military base in occupied Abkhazia by calling on the Russian Federation to respect its

## Georgian Government Responds to Reports About Russian Military Base Establishment in Occupied Abkhazia



Exchange Rates: US Dollar - 2.6783; Euro - 2.8170; GBP - 3.2504; 100 Russian Ruble - 2.6794; Swiss Franc - 2.9245

CONTINUED FROM Page 1

international obligations, fulfill the cease-fire agreement concluded on August 12, 2008, and cease the illegal occupation of the integral regions of Georgia.

“We express concern regarding the statements made by the Russian occupation regime in Sokhumi about the placement of an additional Russian military base on the occupied territories of Georgia and the inclusion of the indivisible Abkhazia region of Georgia in the integration processes initiated by Russia.

These actions represent a gross violation of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Georgia and constitute another provocative attempt to legitimize the

# Georgian Government Responds to Reports About Russian Military Base Establishment in Occupied Abkhazia

illegal occupation of the Abkhazia and Tskhinvali regions.

The international community strongly supports the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Georgia. We call on the Russian Federation to respect its international obligations, fulfill the cease-fire agreement concluded on August 12, 2008, through the mediation of the European Union, and cease the

illegal occupation of Georgia’s indivisible regions,” The Foreign Ministry’s statement reads.

Prime Minister of Georgia, Irakli Gharibashvili, also addressed the establishment of a Russian military base in occupied Abkhazia. According to him, this is a continuation of the occupation.

“I briefed European leaders on the information reported this morning. As you are aware, it has

been revealed that Russia is planning to construct a third military base on our territory, specifically a naval base, without our consent. This constitutes a direct result of the ongoing occupation and is unquestionably a continuation of that occupation.

Naturally, we perceive this decision as illegal. I told them that it makes this situation even worse, which comes with the occupation. Everyone knows

very well that Georgia is, and I described our situation strongly, that we are in a very specific situation, since a significant part of the country’s territory is occupied, and taking into account all this, the country is able to develop, advance, and reform in such a way as to maintain peace and stability. It really needs flexibility and we really have something to say in this direction,” Prime Minister said.

## The News in Brief

PREPARED BY MESSENGER STAFF

### Constitutional Court Completes Review of Georgian Dream Submission on President’s Alleged Constitution Violation

completed the substantive review of the Parliament members’ submissions related to the alleged Constitution violation by the President. The court will submit its report to the Parliament by October 14.

“We have read a lot of undeserved criticism on social media. Some politicians and non-politi-

maturely, but it is better to wait for the court’s decision first,” the Chairman of the Constitutional Court Merab Turava stated.

The Plenum of the Constitutional Court must prepare a report on whether the President violated the Constitution by visiting Germany, France, and Belgium without government consent.

If the Constitutional Court concludes that the President violated the Constitution, Parliament will vote on her impeachment, which requires 100 votes. The plenum discussed the constitutional proposal for three days.”

### Citizens Rally in Protest Against ‘Tent Law’ at Parliament

Citizens gathered near the parliament building to protest the ‘Tent Law’.

The organizers of the protest are members of the movement Talga and Students for the European Future. They assert, that “the Russian government will not be allowed to pass another Russian law.”

According to one of the activists, the Georgian Dream decided to tighten the remaining space of the protest and that this law is ‘identical’ to the law passed by

Viktor Yanukovich in 2014. From their perspective, the Georgian government identifies itself with the same regime.

The Parliament considers the draft law of the Georgian Dream, according to which the setting up of tents and other temporary constructions at rallies is restricted in an accelerated manner. On October 4, the deputies took the bill at the first reading.



The Constitutional Court has completed the substantive review of the Parliament members’ submissions related to the alleged Constitution violation by the President. The court will submit its report to the Parliament by October 14.



## Eastern Partnership mayors convene in Batumi, Georgia, to shape the cities of tomorrow

More than 200 participants from Eastern Partnership cities have convened in Batumi, Georgia, for a two-day urban forum, organised by the Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations (DG NEAR) of the European Commission, UNDP and part-



ners. It takes place on 4 and 5 October.

The Future-Fit Cities forum focused on tackling complex municipal issues by building green, inclusive and resilient cities capable of leveraging public-private finances to boost growth and innovation.

The discussions addressed critical issues, including leadership challenges and financial sustainability. Participants, including Eastern Partnership mayors, had the opportunity to accelerate their knowledge and expand their partnership net-

work within the Mayors for Economic Growth (M4EG) community and beyond.

Lejla Sadiku, Knowledge and Innovation team leader at the UNDP Istanbul Regional Hub, told the forum that cities were the engines driving global prosperity but also bore the weight of 75% of resource consumption and 60-80% of greenhouse gases.

The M4EG Facility draws on the Mayors for Economic Growth Initiative, launched and funded by the European Union (EU) in 2017. Since 2021, the EU-funded M4EG Facility has been managed by UNDP in close cooperation with the EU, local authorities and a range of partners.

(euneighbourseast.eu)

### Weather

Friday, October 6

Day ☀️ Clear  
High: 21°C

Night 🌧️ Mostly Cloudy  
Low: 12°C

Saturday, October 7

Day 🌧️ Partly Cloudy  
High: 22°C

Night 🌧️ Mostly Cloudy  
Low: 11°C

published by

**The Messenger**

43, Chovelidze st., Tbilisi, 0108, Georgia  
Founded by Prof. **Zaza Gachechiladze**  
**Tamar Gachechiladze**  
Publisher

Mob.: +995 599 565621; +995 577 760000  
E-mail: messenger@messenger.com.ge  
http://www.messenger.com.ge/

**Nino Metreveli**  
Commercial Director

**Mariam Mchedlidze**  
Editor-in-Chief

**Khatuna Gogichaishvili**  
Layout Designer, Photographer

The Messenger welcomes your contributions. If you are interested in submitting an article or news item please contact. All contributions should be submitted by e-mail.

The Messenger Georgia’s English language daily is an independent newspaper, and,

therefore, the opinions expressed in some articles do not necessarily coincide with those of the newspaper. We take no responsibility for any claims made in advertisements.

The Messenger preserves the style of a source written in English where possible.