

## Archil Talakvadze Highlights Georgia's Improved Court Independence and Alignment with European Standards



mentation carefully.

"Today, the judicial system in Georgia is remarkably independent. This is evident in various data sources, including international indicators and current statistics. There is a clear balance between citizens and the state in terms of disputes won, and the decisions made by the Georgian court in all high-profile cases of interest have been practically confirmed by Strasbourg.

There are many such cases for which the court was criticized for years, for 2-3 years, but none of the opponents of the judicial system ever apologized.

First and foremost, it is crucial to maintain this progress, institutionalize these achievements, and prevent any form of political interference in the judicial system, which the opposition has repeatedly attempted.

We will, as always, take the recommendations of the Venice Commission very seriously, giving them our full attention and consideration. We will take reasoned steps in this regard," said Talakvadze.

The Venice Commission has published an opinion on the amendments to the Law on General Courts. While the Commission welcomed certain amendments made in June and September 2023, it also noted that these changes do not address significant recommendations provided in its March 2023 opinion.

By Liza Mchedlidze

Archil Talakvadze, a member of the parliamentary majority, emphasized that Georgia's

court system is significantly more independent and aligned with European standards today compared to a decade ago, attributing this positive transforma-

tion to the government's support in implementing necessary reforms.

He stressed the importance of continuing the progress, and as

Archil Talakvadze mentioned, they will take the recommendations of the Venice Commission regarding general courts seriously, discussing each recom-

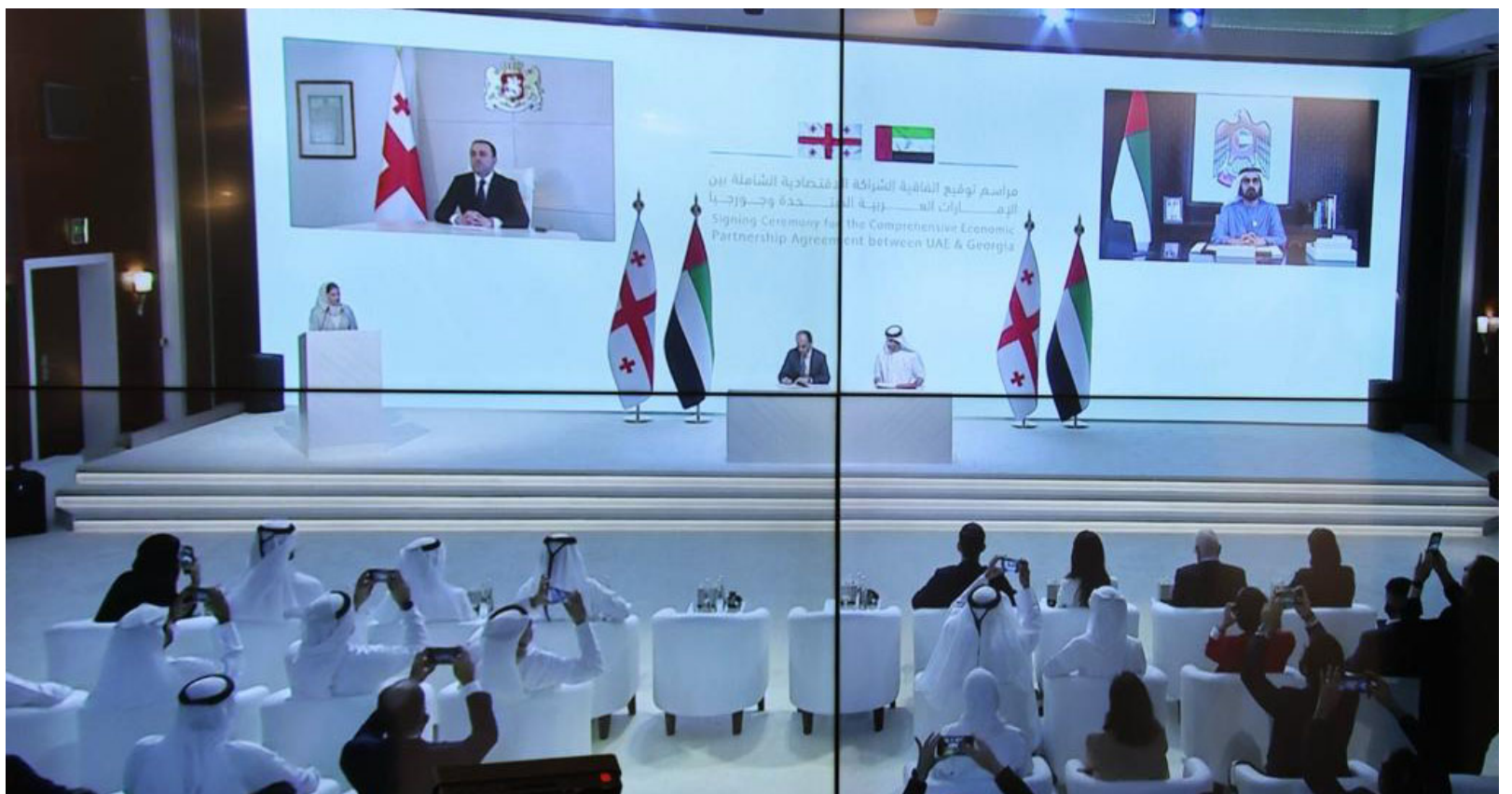
## Georgia and United Arab Emirates Sign Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA)

By Liza Mchedlidze

The Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) between Georgia and the United Arab Emirates was signed by Levan Davitashvili, the Vice Prime Minister of Georgia and Minister of Economy and Sustainable Development, and Dr. Thani bin Ahmed Al Zeyoudi, the United Arab Emirates' Minister of State for Foreign Trade.

The Prime Ministers of Georgia and the United Arab Emirates participated virtually in the ceremony, which was held in the United Arab Emirates.

The Prime Minister of Georgia, Irakli Gharibashvili, at the signing ceremony of the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) between Georgia and the United Arab Emirates, stated that this agreement establishes a robust foundation for the development of



CONTINUED ON Page 2

Exchange Rates: US Dollar - 2.6793; Euro - 2.8393; GBP - 3.2867; 100 Russian Ruble - 2.6757; Swiss Franc - 2.9612

# Georgia and United Arab Emirates Sign Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA)

CONTINUED FROM Page 1

stronger and consolidated trade and economic relations between Georgia and the United Arab Emirates.

“Strengthening our ties with the United Arab Emirates, as one of the leading nations, holds significant importance for us. The

United Arab Emirates has consistently been at the forefront of innovation and progress, serving as a beacon of hope and optimism for the future. I wish to extend my sincere gratitude to His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the President of the United Arab Emirates, for his invaluable contributions to

the advancement of cooperation between our two nations,” Gharibashvili stated.

Prime Minister of the United Arab Emirates, Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, emphasized that the signed agreement represents a significant new milestone in the relationship between the United Arab Emirates and

Georgia.

“I am delighted that the comprehensive economic partnership agreement is being signed today, marking a new milestone in the relations between the United Arab Emirates and Georgia. Under the leadership of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the

United Arab Emirates has consistently worked towards strengthening and fostering sustainable development in our bilateral relations. I am confident that today’s agreement will open up numerous opportunities for our countries in the future,” The United Arab Emirates Prime Minister stated.

## The News in Brief

PREPARED BY MESSENGER STAFF

### Parliament Chairman Shalva Papuashvili Meets with Israeli Ambassador Hadas Meitzad

Israeli Ambassador to Georgia. According to the Parliament of Georgia, the Ambassador expressed gratitude to the Chairman for the support of the State and the people of Israel.

Papuashvili expressed his condolences for the human tragedies caused by terrorist aggression

Chairman of the Parliament with a comprehensive briefing on the outcomes of the attack on Israel from the Gaza Strip and the measures taken by the State of Israel. Additionally, the parties engaged in a discussion regarding the geopolitical context of the aforementioned attack and its implications for global peace.

European Commission.

The parties positively assessed the ongoing intensive consultations between the Georgian authorities and the European Commission. They also reconciled the outcomes of high-level meetings held in Tbilisi and Brussels in September and early October.

Both parties agreed to continue these active consultations to ensure that Georgia’s progress is well-reflected in the European Commission’s report, which is scheduled for publication in early November as part of the ‘expansion package’.



Chairman of the Parliament of Georgia, Shalva Papuashvili, met with Hadas Meitzad, the

and reaffirmed his solidarity with Israel to the ambassador. Hadas Meitzad provided the

### Foreign Minister Ilya Darchiashvili Discusses Georgia’s Progress on European Commission Recommendations with Gert Jan Koopman

Ilya Darchiashvili, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Georgia, held a telephone conversation with Gert Jan Koopman, the Director General of Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations.

According to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the conversation addressed the progress made by Georgia in fulfilling the 12 recommendations of the Eu-



## Georgia: EU and UNDP bring young people together in Lagodekhi to celebrate human rights and climate action



More than a hundred young people gathered on 6 and 7 October in Lagodekhi in eastern Georgia to take part in the ‘People & Planet’ event, which focused on human rights, equality, inclusion, climate smart development and Georgia’s European aspirations.

This event was organised by the European Union (EU) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), in partnership with the Lagodekhi Municipality.

The event showcased the substantial support provided by the European Union to Georgia

and its citizens, highlighting several flagship EU-funded initiatives undertaken in partnership with the UNDP.

There were also a number of activities, including outdoor games, a photography workshop for young artists and another session of the “Human Rights Talks” series organised with EU support, this time on the right to education.

Additionally, Lagodekhi People’s Theatre premiered “How Words Can Hurt,” an educational puppet show that explains data privacy and digital security in a new and fun way.

The event culminated in a Boccia game – a paralympic sport played by athletes with physical disabilities from the Lagodekhi and Signaghi municipalities.

(euneighbourseast.eu)

### Weather

Wednesday, October 11

Day Partly Cloudy High: 17°C

Night Clear Low: 6°C

Thursday, October 12

Day Clear High: 18°C

Night Mostly Cloudy Low: 8°C

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