

Prime Minister Irakli Gharibashvili Meets with European Commissioner Olivér Várhelyi

By Liza Mchedlidze

The Prime Minister of Georgia Irakli Gharibashvili met with the European Commissioner for European Neighborhood Policy and Enlargement, Olivér Várhelyi. According to the press service of the Prime Minister of Georgia, the process of Georgia's accession to the European Union was discussed during the meeting, which took place within the framework of the Prime Minister's working visit to Brussels.

Gharibashvili provided information to Várhelyi about the steps taken by the government to fulfill the 12 recommendations.

During the meeting, the PM emphasized the importance of granting candidate status to Georgia and expressed hope that the efforts made by Georgia to implement the 12 priority reforms will be properly reflected in the European Commission's report.

The meeting also discussed the main directions of the cooperation agenda between Georgia and the European Union, as well as the reforms implemented by the country within the framework of the association agreement. Attention was focused on current global processes.

The Prime Minister thanked the European Commissioner for his firm support of Georgia on the path to joining the European Union.



Both the Prime Minister of Georgia and the European Commissioner addressed the meeting on social media.

"Fruitful meeting with Olivér Várhelyi, discussed Georgia's progress towards EU integra-

tion. Georgia is strengthening ties with the EU and eagerly awaiting the decision on our EU candidacy!" Irakli Gharibashvili wrote.

Olivér Várhelyi emphasized Georgia's place in the EU fam-

ily and the support it will receive on its path to the EU.

"It was good to meet PM Irakli Gharibashvili. We assessed recent developments addressing the 12 key priorities which will be in Georgia's En-

largement Report. The efforts of Georgia are well received. Georgia belongs to the EU family & it will get all the support on its EU path," Várhelyi wrote.



Russia Announces New Base in Occupied Georgia to Avoid Ukrainian Missiles and Drones, Zelensky Vows to Reach Them Everywhere

By Liza Mchedlidze

Vadym Skibitsky, the spokesperson of the Main Intelligence Division of the Ukrainian Defense Forces, provided information about Russia's activities in the port of Ochamchire, a territory in Georgia that is under Russian occupation.

Skibitsky stated that some of the ships of the Russian Black Sea Fleet have been relocated to the port of Novorossiysk. However, due to its limited capacity, Novorossiysk cannot accommodate all the ships. As a result, the Kremlin has chosen to use the occupied territory of Georgia and the active work is currently

underway in occupied Ochamchire.

"Active work is underway in Ochamchire. The Russians have conducted dredging works and upgraded the port infrastructure to support the warships stationed there. However, it will remain a small place," said Skibitsky.

The so-called President of Russian-occupied Abkhazia, Aslan Bzhania, stated in an interview with one of the Russian publications on October 5 that Russia intends to establish a permanent military-naval base in the occupied Abkhazia region. According

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Exchange Rates: US Dollar - 2.6997; Euro - 2.8703; GBP - 3.3001; 100 Russian Ruble - 2.8827; Swiss Franc - 3.0218

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to Bzhanja, the Russian military base, which, according to him,

will soon be located in the occupied Ochamchire region, will enhance the defense capabilities of both Russia and Abkhazia.

President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelenskyy stated during an online speech at the second parliamentary summit of the Crimean Platform that while Russia may try to place its military assets farther from Ukraine, it won't prevent Ukraine from having the capability to reach those assets wherever they are located.

According to Zelenskyy, Ukraine has not yet achieved full control over fire capabilities in occupied Crimea, but he believes

it's only a matter of time.

"The Russian military fleet can no longer operate in the western part of the Black Sea and is gradually retreating from Crimea. This is a historic achievement. Recently, the head of Russia was compelled to announce the creation of a new base for the Black Sea Fleet, or more precisely, its remnants, in the occupied territory of Georgia, specifically in the southeastern part of the sea. The aim is to position it as far as possible from

Ukrainian missiles and naval drones, although we can reach them anywhere," Zelenskyy stated.

According to Ukraine's President, Russian terrorists no longer have a secure base and reliable logistical route in Crimea, and pro-Ukrainian sentiments are becoming increasingly visible. President Volodymyr Zelensky emphasized that Ukraine's primary objective is the complete de-occupation of its territories, including Crimea.

The News in Brief

PREPARED BY MESSENGER STAFF

President Salome Zourabichvili Meets with Female Opposition MPs to Discuss EU Candidacy Status

the opposition representatives following the meeting, the primary focus was on European integration. They noted that the President has her own vision for Georgia's EU membership candidate status, which she plans to unveil to the public in the coming days.

European status with his own political steps and decisions. It was about how she sees our mandate. She listened to our recommendations," said Khatuna Samnidze, leader of the 'Republican Party'.

According to Salome Samadashvili, a member of Lelo, the president discussed coordinated actions with the opposition to obtain EU candidacy status.

"The President has a very strong desire to take coordinated action so that, despite unfulfilled conditions, we can receive the candidate status. She has her own vision of what should be done from this perspective, and she will present it to the public," Samadashvili stated.



On October 24, the President of Georgia, Salome Zourabichvili, held a meeting with female opposition MPs. According to statements from

"It is a fact that threats and accusations from the Georgian Dream have no influence on the president. She intends to continue protecting the country's

Investigation against President Zourabichvili's 2019 Prisoner Pardon Continues, Says Prosecutor General Irakli Shotadze

Prosecutor General Irakli Shotadze informed journalists that the investigation against President of Georgia Salome

Zourabichvili, regarding the pardoning of prisoners in 2019 is still ongoing.

"Criminal prosecution of the current president is limited by law; immunity applies to the president. Criminal prosecution against her is possible only in the case of impeachment if the Con-

stitutional Court confirms the fact of a violation of the Constitution or a criminal offense. The investigation continues; it was

initiated a few years ago regarding the possible crimes that were publicized several years ago," said Shotadze. On August 28, 2019, President Salome Zourabichvili pardoned 34 prisoners. On September 20, 2019, the Prosecutor's Office initiated an investigation



stitutional Court confirms the fact of a violation of the Constitution or a criminal offense. The investigation continues; it was

into this issue under the first part of Article 332 of the Criminal Code, which pertains to the abuse of official authority.

EU calls on Azerbaijan to ensure human rights and security of Karabakh Armenians



Karabakh, over 100,600 persons, had found refuge in Armenia, the EU called on Azerbaijan "to ensure the human rights, fundamental freedoms and security of the Karabakh Armenians, including their right to live in their homes in dignity, without intimidation or discrimination, as well as to create the conditions for the voluntary, safe, dignified and sustainable return of refugees and displaced persons to Nagorno-Karabakh with due respect for their history, culture and human rights."

The statement took note of President Heydar Aliyev's public remarks about willingness to live in peace with Karabakh Armenians and preserve their rights, adding: "Azerbaijan has

a clear primary responsibility for the fate of the population. Tangible, concrete and transparent guarantees must be provided. As an important confidence-building measure, we expect a comprehensive amnesty for all Karabakh Armenians, including their representatives, and restraint by all sides from harsh rhetoric."

The EU reiterated its support to the sovereignty, inviolability of borders and territorial integrity of both Azerbaijan and Armenia, and called on Azerbaijan to reaffirm its unequivocal commitment to the territorial integrity of Armenia, in line with the 1991 Almaty Declaration.

(euneighbourseast.eu)

Weather

Wednesday, October 25

Day Mostly Cloudy
High: 23°C

Night Mostly Cloudy
Low: 12°C

Thursday, October 26

Day Mostly Cloudy
High: 22°C

Night Mostly Cloudy
Low: 13°C

The European Union has called for the assurance of human rights, fundamental freedoms and the security of the Karabakh Armenians, in a

statement to the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on 18 October.

Noting that nearly the entire population of Nagorno-

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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

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On the occasion of the National Day of Hungary commemorating the 1956 Hungarian Revolution, the Ambassador of Hungary, H.E. Anna Mária Sikó and Mr. Robert Christopher Summerfield held a reception on October 23.







