

## Georgian President Salome Zourabichvili Highlights Georgia's Commitment to International Sanctions Against Russia

BY LIZA MCHEDLIDZE

The President of Georgia, Salome Zourabichvili, stated in an interview with France 24 that no one from the West has formally requested Georgia to participate in national-level sanctions against Russia. Nonetheless, Georgia is actively aligning with international financial sanctions, and it is crucial to openly acknowledge this commitment.

Furthermore, the president emphasized that Russia initially attacked Georgia and subsequently targeted Ukraine.

"The lack of a serious Western reaction may have paved the way for Russia's subsequent attack on Ukraine," stated Zourabichvili.

According to her, Ukraine demonstrated significant resistance against Russia, being a larger and stronger country. The hopes of Vladimir Putin were likely dashed due to the robust resistance shown by the President of Ukraine and the Ukrainian people after the Russian aggression.

"Russia is failing. It has already lost the prestige and the reputation of the Russian army. Concerns persist about potential



actions in Georgia, which is why we continually seek European support and strengthen our alliances. While nobody directly

asked Georgia to implement national-level sanctions due to geopolitical pressures and occupied territories, we actively partici-

pate in international financial sanctions. It is crucial to emphasize this. There is no need to hide behind anything. Our banks com-

ply, and we will persist in aligning with the West. This is a steadfast commitment that will endure," stated Zourabichvili.

## Samkharadze: Georgia Ready to Facilitate Dialogue Between Armenia and Azerbaijan



BY LIZA MCHEDLIDZE

The delegation from the Parliament of Georgia actively participated in the 21<sup>st</sup> autumn meeting of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly held in Yerevan.

As per the Parliament's press service, Nikoloz Samkharadze, Chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee and leader of the permanent Georgian Parliament delegation, discussed the visit of OSCE President Pia Kauma and the delegation to Georgia, along with highlighting Georgia's regional role in his address.

Samkharadze conveyed Georgia's readiness to facilitate peace dialogue between Armenia and Azerbaijan, offering Tbilisi as a potential venue for negotiations. He expressed hope that, with the commitment publicly expressed by both sides, lasting peace between the two brotherly neighboring countries could be achieved in the coming months.

"I believe it was a very timely visit to assess the current situation and explore the possibilities of establishing lasting peace in the South Caucasus. It was also crucial for the delegation to visit the occupation line and the settlements of internally displaced persons—individuals who have been unable to return to

their homes for more than 15 years, with some enduring displacement for up to 30 years due to the Russian occupation. I would like to emphasize that Georgia is ready to facilitate the peace dialogue between Armenia and Azerbaijan.

We are prepared to offer Tbilisi as a venue for negotiations, and we hope that, with the commitment that both sides have publicly expressed and made, we will be able to celebrate lasting peace between our two brotherly neighboring countries in the coming months. From our side, Georgia is ready to facilitate the dialogue," said Samkharadze.

In response to the leader of the Georgian parliamentary delegation, Pia Kauma, the president of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, expressed her pleasure in visiting Georgia and highlighted the significance of the moment. She noted that Georgia has been granted the status of a candidate for the European Union, with the official announcement expected in December.

Pia Kauma reaffirmed the OSCE's full support for Georgia's territorial integrity and emphasized the organization's commitment to promoting peace in the region, particularly between Armenia and Azerbaijan.



### The News in Brief

PREPARED BY MESSENGER STAFF

#### Georgian Defense Minister Juansher Burchuladze Meets with Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan



During his visit to the Republic of Armenia, Georgian Defense Minister Juansher Burchuladze

met with Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan. According to the information from the Ministry of Defense of Georgia, the parties discussed the security environment and challenges in the region and the world.

The conversation also touched upon Georgia's readiness to contribute efforts for the peaceful

development of the region within the framework of the Peaceful Neighborhood initiative.

Additionally, during the meeting, special attention was given to the significance of the European Commission's recommendation regarding the granting of candidate status to Georgia. The Minister of Defense emphasized that Georgia remains actively committed to fulfilling the necessary obligations and procedures in the future.

The discussion also addressed the collaboration between the European Union and Georgia in the realm of security and defense policy across various formats.

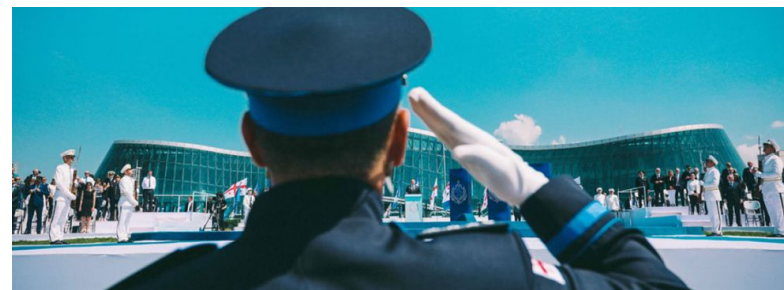
According to the agency, the focus was on the dynamics and perspectives of defense cooperation between the two countries. As part of the visit, Juansher Burchuladze met with his Armenian counterpart, Suren Papikyan, and signed a bilateral cooperation plan.

#### 11 Protest Detainees Released, Ministry of Internal Affairs Reports

According to the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the 11 people

who were arrested at the rally near the Ministry of Environment and Agriculture were released from the court today. The proceedings have been postponed until next week, with the hear-

pants, urging compliance with the lawful requests of the Ministry of Internal Affairs representatives and adherence to the legal limits of freedom of assembly and expression, the partici-



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ing for 8 citizens scheduled for November 29, and the hearing for the remaining three citizens set for November 30.

The activists were detained for actions categorized under Articles 166 and 173 of the Code of Administrative Offenses of Georgia.

"Despite repeated appeals from law enforcement officers to rally organizers and partici-

pants ignored these directives. As a result, public order was violated."

The protest was sparked by the demand of Racha residents and the "For Saving the Rioni Valley" movement for the full cancellation of the 49-year license granted to Davit Khidasheli for 97,000 hectares of forest in the Racha-Lechkhumi and Kvemo Svaneti region.

## Ozzy Energy Campaign 2023: YEAs visit schools in Bolnisi, Georgia to talk about renewable energy

Young European Ambassadors from Georgia visited a school in the Georgian town of Bolnisi this Wednesday, 15 November, to run a workshop on renewable energy.

30 school pupils aged 13-14 years old had the opportunity to discuss and learn about renewables with the help of DIY wind turbine kits.

During the workshop, one of the school pupils noted: "I realised that it's quite easy to use renewable energies and every individual can contribute to saving the planet."



The workshops are available to schools across the Eastern Partnership. Instructions for a DIY wind turbine are also available online for those who wish to build one at home.

Another school visit is planned on 17 November in Gori, Georgia.

The activity is part of the 2023 Ozzy Energy campaign which aims to raise awareness of the

importance of renewable energy among youth in the Eastern partner countries.

Hamster Ozzy, the EU Young Energy Ambassador, is the protagonist of the campaign and is featured in a series of online comic book stories centred around saving and using clean energy.

(euneighbourseast.eu)

## EU, UNDP and Georgia launch new project to improve access to public services for rural communities and vulnerable people



On 16 November, Douglas Webb, Acting Head of UNDP Georgia, and Lasha Lobjanidze, Chairman of the Public Service Hall, signed an agreement on the implementation of a new project.

It aims to improve access to public services for rural communities, persons with disabilities and ethnic minorities.

The project will be implemented in four regions of Georgia: Kakheti, Imereti, Racha-Lechkhumi-Lower Svaneti, and Guria. More than 100,000 people will benefit from it.

Funded by the European Union in Georgia, this initiative is a part of the European Neighbourhood Programme for Agriculture and Rural Development (ENPARD).

(euneighbourseast.eu)

### Weather

#### Monday, November 20

Day Cloudy  
High: 10°C

Night Rain  
Low: 7°C

#### Tuesday, November 21

Day Overcast  
High: 10°C

Night Mostly Cloudy  
Low: 5°C

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# The Italian Cuisine Week in Georgia: Gala dinner dedicated to the traditions and excellences of the Italian cuisine

A great success for the flagship event of the 8<sup>th</sup> edition of the Italian Cuisine Week in Georgia, with the participation of many illustrious representatives

of Georgian institutions, the diplomatic corps and the private sector. Organized by the Italian Embassy in Tbilisi, the Gala dinner was prepared by Bruno

Cingolani, a famous Chef from Piedmont and a truffle expert who owns the renowned restaurant "Dulcis Vitis". Chef Cingolani gave guests the unique oppor-

tunity to taste a delicious menu, based on Italian traditions and enriched with fine ingredients.

















