

President Salome Zourabichvili Hosts Volunteers for 'Your Voice for Europe' Campaign at Orbeliani Palace

BY LIZA MCHEDLIDZE

The President of Georgia, Salome Zourabichvili, hosted volunteers at the Orbeliani Palace within the framework of the Your Voice for Europe campaign. The President noted that volunteering is a manifestation of civic responsibility, which is one of the fundamental European values.

"Volunteering is primarily a manifestation of citizenship. Society and the country rely on personal initiative. This means, at the same time, feeling responsible, recognising that we are all equally responsible for this country and its people. We all have something to contribute, and it's called volunteering. You represent this great force that no one can hold back.

You embody Europe because Europe represents a free understanding of the needs of the society or country around you. Volunteering is not a new concept; volunteers were on strike in 1924 when, together with Cholakashvili, they fought against the foreign regime that was trying to establish itself. It was pure volunteering," said Salome Zourabichvili.

The President of Georgia expressed admiration and respect for Georgian volunteers who have chosen to fight in Ukraine. She emphasized that these vol-



unteers, by making a free and voluntary choice, are representing the dignity of the Georgian people. She paid tribute to those who have sacrificed their lives, recognizing their immense value.

Additionally, she mentioned that volunteers played a crucial role in facing a disaster on June

13, setting an example for the city through their actions.

"Volunteers are Georgian warriors who are fighting in Ukraine today. Through their free, voluntary choice, they embody Georgian dignity. I want to pay tribute to those individuals who have sacrificed their lives and are immensely valuable to

us. Volunteers were the young people who fought against the disaster on June 13 and were able to set an example for the city," said President Zourabichvili.

The President awarded a medal of honor to Sofi and Giorgi Karalashvili and Davit Beriashvili, who tragically died in the Shovi disaster.

According to the President's administration, they were co-founders of "Knowledge Cafe" and were honored by the President for their special personal contribution to the development and popularization of volunteerism, as well as for their strong and active civic position.

Georgia Anticipates Substantial Support from Hungary on Candidate Status, Says Kobakhidze



BY LIZA MCHEDLIDZE

Chairman of the Georgian Dream, Irakli Kobakhidze, is visiting Hungary at the invitation of the Vice Prime Minister. During the visit, Kobakhidze will meet with the Vice Prime Minister, parliament officials, and hold discussions with the leadership of the Ministry of European Affairs, as well as engage with leaders of partner parties.

Kobakhidze emphasized the significance of his visit to Hungary, which occurred one week before the decision on Georgia's candidate status for European integration. He stressed the importance of discussing various issues related to Georgia's integration into European structures during this visit.

The Georgian Dream Chairman acknowledged Hungary as one of the active supporters of Georgia in its European integration journey and emphasized the need for ongoing collaboration to strengthen this support further.

According to Kobakhidze, with Hungary's strong support, Georgia will receive substantial backing when the decision on candidate status is discussed in a week.

"It is crucial to visit Hungary one week before the decision on

the candidate's status to collectively discuss all issues related to Georgia's integration into European structures. While we recognize Hungary as one of the active supporters of Georgia on the path of European integration, continuous cooperation with our Hungarian partners is essential to further strengthen this support. We are confident that, in one week, when the issue of granting candidate status is discussed, our country will receive strong support from Hungary. We also plan to engage in conversations on this topic with our Hungarian partners," said Kobakhidze.

Kobakhidze stated that Hungary is an exceptional supporter of Georgia, particularly on the path of European integration. He emphasized that deepening cooperation between countries is crucial, given shared common values.

"It is absolutely clear to everyone that cooperation, partnership, and friendship with our Hungarian colleagues are of utmost importance in this regard. In general, the deepening of collaboration between countries is crucial for us as we share common values. When cooperation is rooted in shared values, the perspective is particularly strong," stated Kobakhidze.

The News in Brief

PREPARED BY MESSENGER STAFF

Georgia Supports Effective Sanctions Implementation for EU and NATO, Says Shalva Papuashvili



Shalva Papuashvili, the Chairman of the Parliament of Georgia, stated that there were instances of misinformation and speculations about the use of Georgian territories to circumvent sanctions.

Papuashvili stated that Georgia not only prevents but also actively detains certain items stolen from other countries at its borders.

"The conclusion published by the European Commission on November 8 once again dismantled the grounds for speculation. It eliminates those unfortunate instances that, unfortunately, sometimes arise in the heart of Georgia, after which disinformation is spread on vari-

ous formats and platforms. The European Commission noted in its conclusion that all efforts are aimed at ensuring that the territory of Georgia is not used to circumvent sanctions.

There is also a report by the representatives of the European Union, the United States, and Great Britain sanctions, which states that there is no evidence that the territory of Georgia is used to circumvent sanctions.

On the contrary, everyone is grateful that Georgia not only prevents this on its own territory but also detains certain items stolen from other countries at the border of Georgia. About 2,000 such transactions were stopped at the border of Georgia because any goods or sanctioned companies were detected.

Prime Minister Irakli Gharibashvili Meets with US Deputy Assistant Secretary Joshua Huck

The Prime Minister of Georgia, Irakli Gharibashvili, met with Joshua Huck, the Deputy Assistant Secretary of State of the United States.

The meeting, held at the government administration, involved a review of the strategic partnership agenda between Georgia and the United States. Discussions centered on identifying steps to strengthen and deepen the existing cooperation across various fields.

Irakli Gharibashvili and Joshua Huck discussed the progress achieved by Georgia on the path of European integration. Joshua Huck congratulated the head of the government on the positive recommendation from the European Commission.

The Prime Minister noted that the country is now anticipating a positive decision from the European Council regarding the granting of candidate status. He emphasized that integration into the European Union remains one of the main priorities of the Georgian government's foreign policy.

The meeting centered on the security and humanitarian situation in the occupied territories of Georgia. The Prime Minister expressed gratitude to Joshua Huck for the unwavering support of the United States of America regarding Georgia's sovereignty, territorial integrity, and European integration.



'EU Human Rights in Film Award' honours filmmakers at Tbilisi International Film Festival

In the closing ceremony of the Tbilisi International Film Festival, the EU Delegation to Georgia awarded the 'EU Human Rights in Film Award 2023' to two films.

For the first time, this year's award celebrated achievements in two distinct categories: documentary and fiction. The documentary award was presented to Smiling Georgia, directed by Luka Beradze.



by Abbas Ammini won in the fiction category.

"At the time when Georgia and Europe are closer than ever, promoting the Georgian cinematographic industry and the unique culture of Georgia is of great importance for the European Union," Ambassador Pawel Herczynski said.

It has become a regular practice for the EU Delegation to Georgia to support the Human Rights in Film Award, established on the occasion of Human Rights Day, which is marked on 10 December.

The Prometheus Centre for Cinematographic Art has been organising the Tbilisi International Film Festival since 2000, with the aim of presenting outstanding new foreign and Georgian films.

(euneighbourseast.eu)

Weather

Wednesday, December 6

Day Light Rain High: 8°C

Night Rain Low: 7°C

Thursday, December 7

Day Light Rain High: 13°C

Night Partly Cloudy Low: 5°C

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The Office of the Embassy of the Kingdom of Spain in Georgia organized a Spanish guitar concert by Igor Gayarre Conde on the occasion of the Spanish Presidency of the EU on December 4.



