

President Zourabichvili Hosts Athletes for 'Our Voice for Europe' Campaign

BY LIZA MCHEDLIDZE

The President of Georgia Salome Zourabichvili hosted young athletes within the framework of the "Our Voice for Europe" campaign.

President Zourabichvili emphasized the importance of discipline and freedom in the field of sports. She mentioned that although there might be challenges in maintaining these values, the pursuit of freedom is essential and something that can be earned every day.

Zourabichvili noted the significance of collective efforts and initiatives coming together, representing a unified message from Georgia to Europe. She announced a non-governmental march on December 9 as part of this collective effort, aiming to make a joint statement about Georgia's 'Europeanness'.

The Georgian President stated that society is actively shaping its future and freedom on a daily basis. She extended her wishes for more Europe, more freedom, and more success to the audience.

"Sports is probably the field that needs two things the most: discipline - if you don't have it, you won't be successful. The second is freedom. The bird brought me the news that we may be limping a bit in this respect, but that's okay; freedom is something that can be earned, something that is earned every day,



and it depends on us the most. Society, in this case, is building its future and its freedom every day. Therefore, I want to wish you all more Europe, more freedom, and more success.

I know that Europe will hear

your voice because, with your success, they already hear your voice. We need to say it louder so that everyone can hear it, and it is our common voice from Georgia. I know there are many different initiatives that come

together in various places. This is also a sign of society, where separately and together, we send one message to Europe.

In this regard, there will be a non-governmental march on December 9, which we are join-

ing, as others join us, to make a joint statement of Georgia's Europeanness while we await a decisive message from Europe in a few days. Long live our European future!" Zourabichvili said.



Parliament Chairman Participates in the NATO-Georgia Commission Meeting

BY LIZA MCHEDLIDZE

Salva Papuashvili, the Chairman of the Parliament of Georgia, participated in a meeting of the NATO-Georgia Commission (NGC) at the level of permanent representatives held on December 6 at NATO headquarters in Brussels.

According to the press service of the Parliament of Georgia, during the meeting, the Chairman of the Parliament provided detailed information to the ambassadors of the member states of the Alliance about the ongoing democratic reforms in the country and emphasized the progress achieved by Georgia in several areas.

In his speech, he also addressed the significance of enhancing cooperation between NATO and Georgia, highlighting the challenging geopolitical situation in the region. This includes Russia's military aggression against Ukraine and its impact on both Georgia and the broader Black Sea region.

"At the NATO Washington summit, the Georgian side unequivocally emphasized the necessity of Georgia's accession to the alliance. In response, the Allies welcomed the progress achieved by the country on the path of European and Euro-Atlantic integration. They under-

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Exchange Rates: US Dollar - 2.6860; Euro - 2.8987; GBP - 3.3846; 100 Russian Ruble - 2.8982; Swiss Franc - 3.0715

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scored the qualitatively high-level relations between Georgia

and the Alliance, emphasizing the importance of continuing the successful implementation of planned reforms.

The ambassadors expressed gratitude to the Georgian side for its valuable contribution to ensuring common Euro-Atlantic security. They reiterated the alliance's strong support for the country's territorial integrity and sovereignty," the statement reads.

Shalva Papuashvili, the Parliament Chairman, stated that at the NATO-Georgia Commission, he emphasized the importance of NATO sharing the approaches that the European

Union has recently.

"At the NATO-Georgia Commission meeting, I discussed how Georgia manages to maintain a safe environment in a challenging security context while actively participating in international security, including support for Ukraine.

I was talking about the fact that in the wake of the progress of integration in the European Union, it is important for NATO to share the approaches that the European Union has recently

when we are given clear expectations in the form of recommendations. These recommendations are then followed by appropriate decisions when we make progress in this or that recommendation.

It is important that NATO adopts these approaches and communicates to us the exact criteria and expectations. Also, it seems that when there is progress on these issues, it will be followed by decisions from the side of NATO," Papuashvili said.

The News in Brief

PREPARED BY MESSENGER STAFF

Kaladze Says Orbán Has Consistently Shown Hungary as a Key Supporter of Georgia's European Integration



The Mayor of Tbilisi, Kakha Kaladze addressed the opposition's criticism of Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán's stance on Ukraine joining the European Union.

According to Kaladze, Orbán has consistently shown Hungary as one of the most important supporters of Georgia's European integration journey.

He stated that the opposition opposes everyone who supports Georgia, adding

that their main goal is to prevent Georgia from becoming a candidate country for European Union membership. Kaladze accused the opposition of attempting to delay crucial steps in Georgia's journey to join the EU:

"Do we not know the actions of the opposition? Their main message is that Georgia should not attain the status of a candidate country for EU membership. Years ago, they also did everything to delay the process of visa liberalization and avoided signing an association agreement. As for Orbán, he has repeatedly shown through his statements that Hungary is indeed one of the most significant supporters of our country on the challenging path of European integration.

From what I observe of the opposition, they oppose anyone supporting Georgia as much as possible. They are actively working against it, even in the process of attaining the status, but their efforts will be in vain. The government of Georgia is dedicated to achieving this status, implementing all necessary reforms in the coming years, and taking appropriate steps to expedite the process of European integration," said Kaladze.

President Zourabichvili's Actions Harm Georgia's Interests, says Shalva Papuashvili

Shalva Papuashvili, the Chairman of the Parliament of Georgia, criticized President Salome Zourabichvili's actions, deeming them detrimental to the na-

tional interests of the country.

Papuashvili responded to inquiries regarding Irakli Kobakhidze's statement, suggesting a significant likelihood of Zourabichvili "resigning and participating in the elections one or two months before they take place."

He believes that Zourabichvili's steps are harmful to Georgia's interests, including national and security interests. According to Papuashvili, given Zourabichvili's actions against the national interests of Georgia and her alignment with the opposition's agenda, it is

difficult to rule out potential negative consequences.

"We can see that after Salome Zourabichvili violated the constitution, she deliberately left the constitutional framework. Her steps are harmful to the national interests of Georgia, including security interests, and therefore nothing can be ruled out. It is a fact that Salome Zourabichvili is acting against the national interests of Georgia and is clearly acting according to the agenda of the opposition. It will be difficult to rule things out," Papuashvili stated.



More than 650 new Young European Ambassadors selected amid record applications

The EU NEIGHBOURS east programme has welcomed 657 new Young European Ambassadors (YEAs) to its existing network, selected among a record 2,126 applications from young candidates from the EaP coun-



tries, EU Member States and the UK. The network now counts a total of 1,162 active YEAs.

After an intense selection procedure for assessing the applica-

tions, 74 new YEAs were picked for Armenia, 114 for Azerbaijan, 14 for Belarus, 98 for Georgia, 108 for Moldova, 121 for Ukraine, and 128 for the EU/UK.

The newcomers, aged 16-26, will now take part in the YEAs Academy, which offers them training to prepare for their tasks ahead.

The Young European Ambassadors (YEAs) initiative is a non-political, voluntary, vibrant communication network connecting and building bridges of friendship among young people from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova, Ukraine and the EU Member States and the United Kingdom. The aim of the network is to raise awareness about the EU's cooperation with its Eastern partner countries, showcase the tangible results of this cooperation, contribute to

policy dialogue on various topics, help increase civic activism and work together for a better future.

Between January and October 2023, the Young European Ambassadors have taken part in 821 activities across the region and in the EU. Face-to-face activities this year have reached 52,000 people, while online reach has risen to more than 3.8 million.

The call for applications for new YEAs takes place once a year, usually in the autumn. Information about the call and the application form will be published here and promoted in the EU NEIGHBOURS east opportunities section. Subscribe here to stay in touch.

(euneighbourseast.eu)

Weather

Thursday, December 7

Day Light Rain
High: 13°C

Night Partly Cloudy
Low: 5°C

Friday, December 8

Day Light Rain
High: 8°C

Night Light Rain
Low: 6°C

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