

Foreign Minister Darchiashvili Explains President's Absence from Ambassadors' Conference

BY LIZA MCHEDLIDZE

The President of Georgia was not invited to the ambassadors' conference, according to the administration.

"The President of Georgia did not receive an invitation to attend the conference of ambassadors scheduled for December 26-28," the administration stated.

Minister of Foreign Affairs Ilya Darchiashvili addressed the reason why President Salome Zourabichvili was not invited and stated that the format of this year's conference did not include an invitation to the President.

According to Darchiashvili, the conference focused on European integration, and both the government and parliament were working in this direction. He noted that the President was invited last year but did not attend the event.

"This year's conference is dedicated to the specific actions taken by the executive power and the parliament of Georgia. Both branches were responsible for these important directions.

Regarding the invitation of the President of Georgia, she was invited last year but did not participate. However, today's conference followed a different format, considering that throughout the year, the executive branch and



the parliamentary dimension—the two main branches—worked to achieve this specific result," Darchiashvili said.

Regarding the invitation of the President of Georgia, last year, the president was invited,

and she did not participate. However, today's conference had the following format, considering that throughout the year, the executive branch and the parliamentary dimension—the two main branches—have been

working to achieve this particular outcome. The logic behind the format was this," Darchiashvili said.

President Zourabichvili decided not to attend the event last year. In 2022, the presidential

administration explained that the reason for the absence was a protocol violation: the president's chair was not placed in the appropriate location defined by the protocol.

Abkhazia's Occupation Regime Representatives Meet with Enguri Dam Leadership

BY LIZA MCHEDLIDZE

A publication operating in occupied Abkhazia 'Nuzhnaya

Gazeta' reported that on December 22, 2023, representatives of the occupation regime of Abkhazia met with the leader-

ship of the Enguri Dam.

The meeting allegedly took place in Gali, where the so-called Minister of Economy of occupied

Abkhazia, Kristina Ozgani, reportedly met with the Georgian side.

Nuzhnaya Gazeta reported, based on a source, that the Abkhazian side demanded an increase in the supply of electricity. However, they claim that representatives of the occupation regime tried to conceal this information.

Kristina Ozgani herself confirmed the information about the meeting, stating that "the parties held a working meeting."

"We discussed the issues of electricity generation volume in January-March 2024, the schedule of electricity consumption during this period, considering the maintenance of the required water level in the reservoir, as well as other matters related to the operation of the complex," de facto Economy Minister Kristina Ozgani said.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Georgia, Ilya Darchiashvili, addressed the meeting, stating that he is not aware of the details of the meeting held in Gali between the leadership of Enguri Dam and the so-called Minister of Economy of

the occupation regime of Abkhazia.

"Enguri Dam has always provided an opportunity to build relationships and trust between two communities divided by the occupation line. It has consistently served this purpose, and its geographical location is such that coordination is generally necessary for the facility to function," said Ilya Darchiashvili.

The Chairman of the Parliament, Shalva Papuashvili, also addressed the meeting:

"Enguri Dam has been an example for years now, where it is possible to discuss technical issues to ensure appropriate social conditions for our fellow citizens in the occupied territory, particularly regarding the supply of electricity. This serves as a good example that relations and contacts must exist," Papuashvili said.

The occupied Abkhazia is also supplied with electricity from Enguri Dam. According to the Georgian National Energy and Water Supply Regulatory Commission, 60% of the energy generated by Enguri Dam goes to Abkhazia.



The News in Brief

PREPARED BY MESSENGER STAFF

Chairman Papuashvili Warns of Disinformation Campaigns and Emphasizes Diplomatic Role in Election Prep



Speaking at the conference of ambassadors, Shalva Papuashvili, the Chairman of the Parliament of Georgia, stated that a disinformation campaign, disorder, and instability are anticipated before the elections. He emphasized the crucial role diplomats play in ensuring timely and effective communication with interna-

tional partners.

“We realize that next year will be challenging. With the crucial parliamentary elections ahead, we anticipate large-scale campaigns of disinformation and false narratives, along with provocations and attempts to create confusion, instability, and misperceptions.

During this process, timely and appropriate communication with international partners will be crucial, as well as the development of close ties with them. In this case, you, the ambassadors of Georgia, play a significant role.

Today, we live in an age of ‘headlines’ where one ‘headline’ can carry the weight

of yesterday’s article or even an entire PR campaign. In this information age, social media tools have gained considerable power. Therefore, we call for increased activity and more efforts to engage with international partners and foreign societies, using both traditional diplomatic methods and social media,” Papuashvili said.

Protestors Rally Against Transfer of Bichvinta Country House to Russia in Occupied Abkhazia



People gathered to protest against the transfer of the Bichvinta country house in occupied Abkhazia, assembling near the so-called ‘Parliament.’ Radio Liberty’s

‘Echo Caucasus’ project has disseminated information about this.

Participants of the rally expressed their opposition to the transfer of the ‘state-owned’ Bichvinta country house to Russia. They were actively protesting against the ratification of the agreement.

“We won’t leave until the issue is resolved in favor of the people,” one of the protesters stated in a conversation with journalists.

Security measures were reinforced near the ‘Parliament’ building and around the complex of ‘government’ buildings. The ‘Minister of Internal Affairs’ of the occupied region, Robert Kutii, was

present at the site. He urged the population to “refrain from participating in an unauthorized rally.”

Georgia: EU and UNDP wrap up non-formal education and vocational training initiative

The European Union and UNDP have finalised an innovative initiative aimed at enhancing educational opportunities for Georgian youth, ‘Creating Better Life-Long Learning Opportunities Through Local Partnerships’.

The project was implemented in five targeted regions – Ajara Autonomous Republic, Guria, Imereti, Kakheti, and Racha-Lechkhumi.

The results of this transformative project include new educational programmes, digital learning tools, and tailored activities for NEET youth, young people not engaged in education,



Education Youth Centre ‘Sunny House’ and Georgia’s Skills Agency.

During this period, seven colleges received institutional support, including the introduction of an entrepreneurial college model through technical resources and capacity-building activities for administrative and teaching staff.

Ten public schools received support to launch vocational education programmes expanding access to vocational training for high school students and community members.

Extra-curricular activities, focusing on entrepreneurial activities, art, sports, healthy lifestyle, and social inclusion, were also introduced in VET colleges, and a new Career Orientation Service for Persons with Disabilities was piloted in partner colleges.

(euneighbourseast.eu)

employment, or training. Spanning from 2021 to 2023,

the US\$1.3 million project was co-funded by the EU and UNDP

and implemented through a partnership with the Non-Formal

Weather

Wednesday, December 27

Day Partly Cloudy High: 11°C

Night Partly Cloudy Low: 3°C

Thursday, December 28

Day Partly Cloudy High: 6°C

Night Partly Cloudy Low: -2°C

published by

The Messenger

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

The Messenger welcomes your contributions. If you are interested in submitting an article or news item please contact.

All contributions should be submitted by e-mail.

The Messenger Georgia’s English language daily is an independent newspaper, and,

therefore, the opinions expressed in some articles do not necessarily coincide with those of the newspaper. We take no responsibility for any claims made in advertisements.

The Messenger preserves the style of a source written in English where possible.