

NGOs Request to Be Included in the Working Meeting on the Implementation of the 9 Recommendations of the EU Commission

BY LIZA MCHEDLIDZE

Ten non-governmental organizations, focused on democracy and judicial supremacy have released a statement and requested participation in the upcoming working meeting to discuss the implementation of the nine recommendations outlined by the European Commission.

According to their statement, on January 29, the Parliament of Georgia held a working meeting concerning the implementation of the mentioned recommendations, where they engaged with opposition parties and representatives of the national platform of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum. Upon learning about the working meeting in the Parliament of Georgia, some civil organizations wrote to the Chairman of the Parliament, seeking involvement in the work process. However, at the current stage, their request has been denied, and the Parliament refused to invite the public organizations expressing interest in participating in the work process to the meeting.

As signatory organizations, they emphasize not being members of the platform but have been actively working on issues covered by the European Union's nine recommendations for several years.

The organizations, dedicated to democracy and judicial supremacy, called on the Parliament to expand cooperation with



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STATEMENTS



ევროკომისიის 9 დათქმა სამოქალაქო საზოგადოების ფართო ჩართულობით უნდა შესრულდეს

30.01.2024



29 იანვარს, ევროკომისიის 9 დათქმის შესრულებასთან დაკავშირებით, საქართველოს პარლამენტმა ოპოზიციურ პარტიებთან და აღმოსავლეთ პარტნიორობის სამოქალაქო საზოგადოების ფორუმის ეროვნული პლატფორმის წარმომადგენლებთან სამუშაო შეხვედრა გამართა.

ხელმძღვანელი ორგანიზაციები არ ვართ პლატფორმის წევრები, თუმცა, წლებია, ვმუშაობთ ევროკავშირის 9 დათქმით გათვალისწინებულ საკითხებზე. მას შემდეგ, რაც ცნობილი გახდა, რომ საქართველოს პარლამენტში იგეგმებოდა სამუშაო შეხვედრა, სამოქალაქო ორგანიზაციების ნაწილმა წერილობით მიმართეთ პარლამენტის თავმჯდომარეს და სამუშაო პროცესში ჩართვა ვთხოვეთ. განცხადებაში, რომელსაც დემოკრატიისა და სამართლის უზენაესობის

თემაზე მომუშავე ორგანიზაციები ვანერდით ხელს, პარლამენტს მოვუწოდებთ, გაეფართოვებინა სამოქალაქო სექტორთან თანამშრომლობის ფორმატი და უზრუნველყოფოდა ფართო სამუშაო ფორმატის გამართვა და მასში დაინტერესებული ორგანიზაციების ჩართვა.

the civil sector and adopt a comprehensive working format that includes the participation of interested organizations.

"On January 29, concerning the implementation of the 9 recommendations of the European Commission, the Parliament of Georgia conducted a working meeting with opposition parties and representatives of the national platform of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum.

As signatory organizations,

we are not members of the platform; however, we have been working on the issues covered by the EU's 9 recommendations for years.

After it became known that a working meeting was planned in the Parliament of Georgia, some civil organizations wrote to the Chairman of the Parliament, requesting involvement in the work process.

In the statement signed by organizations dedicated to de-

mocracy and judicial supremacy, we urged the Parliament to broaden cooperation with the civil sector, ensuring the adoption of a comprehensive working format that includes the participation of interested organizations.

However, at this stage, our request was denied, and the Parliament refused to invite the public organizations that had expressed interest in participating in the work process to the

meeting," the statement reads.

The statement was signed by the following non-governmental organizations: Georgia Young Lawyers Association (GYLA); Safari; Center for Social Justice; Democracy Research Institute (DRI); European-Georgian Institute (EGI); Information Development Institute (IDFI); Open Space Caucasus; Rights Georgia; International Society for Fair Elections and Democracy; Human Rights Center.

Swedish Ambassador Anna Lyberg Holds Meetings with Chairs of Foreign Relations and European Integration Committees

BY LIZA MCHEDLIDZE



Nikoloz Samkharadze, Chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee of the Parliament of Georgia, met with Anna Lyberg, the Ambassador of the Kingdom of Sweden to Georgia.

During the meeting, the discussion covered existing bilateral relations between Georgia and Sweden, exploring possibilities for enhancing cooperation at the parliamentary level.

Samkharadze provided the ambassador with updates on Georgia's European and Euro-Atlantic integration, detailing the nine-step implementation process outlined by the European Commission and presenting future plans.

Lyberg and Samkharadze delved into regional security matters, focusing on the security environment in the South Caucasus, and addressing the challenging situation in Abkhazia and the Tskhinvali region occupied by Russia.

The parties also discussed domestic political issues, the ongoing pre-election period, and the agenda for the upcoming spring session of the Parliament.

The Chairwoman of the European Integration Committee, Maka Bochorishvili, also met with the Swedish Ambassador.

During the discussion, the parties addressed both bilateral and multilateral cooperation between Georgia and Sweden,

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Exchange Rates: US Dollar - 2.6827; Euro - 2.9080; GBP - 3.4019; 100 Russian Ruble - 3.0055; Swiss Franc - 3.1097

Swedish Ambassador Anna Lyberg Holds Meetings with Chairs of Foreign Relations and European Integration Committees

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exploring avenues for strengthening ties. The meeting delved into issues concerning Georgia's integration into the European Union and the implementation

of recommendations. Maka Bochorishvili emphasized Georgia's commitment to reforms, ensuring readiness for EU membership. She highlighted the priority placed on the country's economic development,

fostering connections between people and business circles, and the significance of cooperation with the European Union and its member states.

Anna Lyberg congratulated Georgia on attaining the status

of a candidate country for the European Union, expressing positive sentiments about the enduring cooperation between the two nations.

Notably, Sweden affirmed its support for Georgia's EU inte-

gration and willingness to assist the country in various capacities. During the meeting, both parties agreed on fostering cooperation between the two countries to deepen inter-parliamentary relations.

The News in Brief

PREPARED BY MESSENGER STAFF

Abkhazian De Facto Leaders Discuss Military Preparedness and Security Measures



Per Abkhazian media reports, the de facto President of Abkhazia and the de facto Minister of Defense discussed the significance of Abkhazia's combat readiness during their meeting.

"Providing military security is the most important task for the country's government and the population as a whole. Taking into account the current situation and the hostilities in Ukraine, the risk of starting

new military conflicts is increasing," de facto President Aslan Bzhania said.

Vladimir Anua, the de facto Defense Minister, has announced the establishment of seven reserve units in Abkhazia. Additionally, for the first time in

the last 13 years, the salaries of military personnel are set to increase. Official reports state that 100 million rubles have been allocated from the budget of Abkhazia to enhance combat and mobilization readiness, including the preparation of fuel equipment for military planes and helicopters.

Bzhania stated, "The state will uphold the armed forces of the Republic of Abkhazia as the primary institution of our statehood."

Parliament Chairman Shalva Papuashvili Announces Plan to Approve Government Next Week

The Chairman of the Parliament of Georgia, Shalva Papuashvili, announced that the plan is to approve the government in the next session week.

As highlighted by Shalva Papuashvili, the process of approving the government spans several days, with the government program undergoing initial discussions in committees before reaching

the plenary session.

"The review will be spread over several days. Our goal is to approve the composition of the government next week. Salome

According to him, there will be a session of the bureau next week, during which the government's hearing schedule will be approved. Subsequently,



Zourabichvili will also give a speech since, according to the regulations, her address is scheduled for the first day of the spring session. All these processes will be completed next week. I will submit my annual report in the following session week of February," said Papuashvili.

there will be several days of discussions in the committees, followed by engagement with the opposition. Finally, the issue will be brought to the plenary session.

"The plan is for the government to be approved in the next session week," Papuashvili said.

Quality control laboratory and online platform: EU-funded initiative in Bolnisi, Georgia, marks its completion

The 'Bolnisi Model – a Successful Example for Local Economic Development', an EU-funded initiative, recently marked its completion with a forum in Bolnisi, Georgia.

In its two years, the project achieved a number of results including integrating a quality control laboratory into the Bolnisi agro-centre to improve the standards of agricultural



products such as cereals, milk, and wine.

The project also supported the launch of the online platform www.bolnisiagrocenter.ge, which has contributed to the development of the local market. On the platform, Bolnisi agricultural producers can showcase their products. At the same time, it simplifies the purchasing process for those wishing to buy agrarian products from Bolnisi.

The project also introduced the 'Sustainable and Green City' strategy. As part of this initiative, energy efficient benches were installed and modern bus stops were built, which significantly improved the infrastruc-

ture and appearance of the city.

The total budget of the Bolnisi Model project amounted to •250,000. It includes a •200,000 grant from the European Union, supplemented by a •50,000 contribution from the Municipality of Bolnisi.

The EU funding was disbursed as part of a wider EU-funded programme for the Eastern Partnership region – the 'Mayors for Economic Growth' (M4EG) initiative, which aims to empower municipalities so that they can plan and implement effective changes in their region.

(euneighbourseast.eu)

Weather

Wednesday, January 31

Day Mostly Cloudy
High: 6°C

Night Mostly Cloudy
Low: -2°C

Thursday, February 1

Day Partly Cloudy
High: 7°C

Night Clear
Low: -3°C

published by

The Messenger

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