

BY LIZA MCHEDLIDZE

Georgian Dream Nominates Irakli Kobakhidze as Prime Minister Candidate

At the Georgian Dream party congress, Irakli Gharibashvili was officially elected as the chairman of the party. He then nominated Irakli Kobakhidze as a candidate for the position of Prime Minister, and Kobakhidze's candidate received unanimous support.

Kobakhidze now needs 76 votes (a simple majority) from all 150 members of the Georgian Parliament for final approval as Prime Minister. Currently, the Georgian Dream has 84 deputies.

"I would like to symbolically ask all of you to express your support for the Prime Minister candidate, Irakli Kobakhidze," said Gharibashvili. "He has been granted full legitimacy and mandate by the Congress."

Kobakhidze expressed his gratitude to Bidzina Ivanishvili, the founder of the Georgian Dream party, for nominating him as a candidate for the prime ministership.

"Mr. Bidzina Ivanishvili serves as an example for each of us on how to dedicate oneself to the service of one's country. Over the past years, every member of our team has contributed their share of efforts to the progress of our country. However, it must be said that the fact that Georgia now enjoys democracy, peace, economic progress, and the status of a candidate for EU membership is, first and foremost, due to Mr. Bidzina Ivanishvili's merit. A special thanks to the founder of the party for this!

"I would also like to thank Irakli Gharibashvili for the trust he has declared. Special thanks



are extended to him for his three years of highly successful work as the Prime Minister, which brought unprecedented success to our country—thank you very much. I express gratitude to the

General Secretary of the party, Kakha Kaladze, every member of the political council of the party, and all delegates of the congress," Kobakhidze said.

Kobakhidze informed the me-

dia that he had discussions within the team regarding the formation of the government, and he extended an invitation to all members of the government to remain in their positions.

According to Kobakhidze, Defense Minister Juansher Burchuladze expressed a desire to step down from his post, and he will be replaced by Member of Parliament Irakli Chikovani.

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Irakli Gharibashvili Says Ivanishvili and Georgian Dream are 'Primary Guarantors' of Peace



Irakli Gharibashvili, Chairman of the Georgian Dream Party, asserted in his address during the party congress that if Bidzina Ivanishvili and the Georgian Dream had been in power in 2008, the August war would not have occurred. He added that Ivanishvili, along with Georgian Dream, remains the primary guarantor of peace and democratic development.

Gharibashvili personally thanked Ivanishvili for the opportunities to serve in various capacities, such as Prime Minister, Minister of Defense, and Minister of Internal Affairs. He acknowledged each role as a chance to contribute to the progress of Georgia and expressed pride in his contributions.

He extended gratitude to the party leadership, members, ministers, civil servants, and the people of Georgia for their support, considering it a crucial motivation for their daily activities.

"It can be guaranteed that to-

day the country would be engulfed in war if Bidzina Ivanishvili and Georgian Dream were not in power in 2008; the August war would not have happened. I would like to reiterate today that Bidzina Ivanishvili, the founder of our party, and Georgian Dream remain the main guarantors of peace and democratic development.

I express my personal gratitude to the founder of our party for giving me the opportunity to participate in these important processes twice in the capacity of Prime Minister, Minister of Defense, and Minister of Internal Affairs. For me, each position was an opportunity to serve Georgia. Today, I am proud to have contributed to the progress of our country.

I want to thank each of you for the support I have always felt – the party leadership, each member, ministers, ministries, civil servants, and, of course, our people. Their trust and support are the main incentives for our daily activities," Gharibashvili stated.

The News in Brief

PREPARED BY MESSENGER STAFF

Defense Minister Juansher Burchuladze Resigns, Kobakhidze Says



Irakli Kobakhidze, the prime minister candidate of Georgian Dream, stated that the sole change in the Government of Georgia will be the replacement of Juansher Burchuladze with

Irakli Chikovani as the Minister of Defense.

He mentioned that after being nominated as a candidate for the position of Prime Minister, he extended the offer for all ministers to continue in their roles. However, Juansher Burchuladze

expressed a desire to resign from his post. Kobakhidze stated that all other ministers will retain their current positions.

“First and foremost, taking this into account, during our team discussion on government

formation, I want to emphasize that I proposed to every member of the government to continue in their roles. The sole exception was the Minister of Defense, Juansher Burchuladze, who expressed his desire to transition from politics to another field. I respect his decision, and as a result, the only change in the Government of Georgia will be the nomination of Irakli Chikovani for the position of Minister of Defense. This is the proposed composition that will be officially presented to the Parliament,” Kobakhidze said.

Prosecutor’s Office of Georgia Investigates Transnational Fraudulent Call Centers

The Prosecutor’s Office of Georgia announced it has been conducting investigative and procedural actions in various locations in Tbilisi as part of an international investigation.

The agency’s statement reads that the Prosecutor’s Office of Georgia, in collaboration with its



European counterparts, is actively continuing the investigation against transnational fraudulent call centers.

“Georgia’s Prosecutor’s Office, alongside European colleagues, actively continues the investigation into transnational fraudulent call centers. The case in-

volves transnational crime uncovered within the ongoing investigation, in collaboration with

European partners, specifically addressing the criminal case of fraudulent call centers,” the statement reads.

Prior to this, the media disseminated information about an ongoing special operation on Richard Holbrooke Street in Tbilisi.

EaP Civil Society Forum and National Platform of Georgia condemn smear campaign against Georgian civil society experts

On 31 January, the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum Steering Committee and the Coordination Council of the National Platform of Georgia released a statement strongly condemning the smear campaign against the local Georgian civil society experts who contributed to the EaP CSF’s Eastern Partnership Index 2023 edition.

The Eastern Partnership (EaP) Index 2023 edition was released on 24 January 2024. It assesses the state of democratic reforms in each EaP country and their level of approximation with the European Union (EU), and provides recommendations. According to the study, Georgia’s performance was characterised by a “significant downwards drift, if not a sharp plunge in many areas which reflects the country’s political polarisation”.

In the statement, the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum Steering Committee and the Co-

ordination Council of the National Platform of Georgia said they were appalled by the defamation campaign carried out by the affiliated media of the ruling coalition member party (‘People’s Power’ movement) against local Georgian civil society experts who contributed to

the EaP Index 2023 edition. Both organisations also consider the recent statements made by individual members of the ruling party (Georgian Dream) against the civil society experts dangerous.

“Attempts to discredit civil society, diminish our watchdog

role, and portray activists as ‘enemies’ of the country contradict the constitutional values of Georgia and its commitments towards European integration,” the statement said. “A thriving enabling environment for civil society remains the backbone of any healthy democracy and

country with EU accession aspirations.”

The Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum Steering Committee and the Coordination Council of the National Platform of Georgia urged all the perpetrators to cease their defamatory actions against civil society in general, and EaP Index experts in particular.

They also called on the Georgian government to take into account in its work the assessments and policy recommendations provided by civil society on Georgia’s rapprochement with the EU.

“Resorting to intimidation, hate speech, and slander to marginalise and diminish the impact of our work towards democratisation, including the important monitoring work done by our EaP Index experts, contradicts our country’s aspirations for becoming a full-fledged member of the EU,” said Natia Kuprashvili, EaP CSF National Facilitator, Georgia. “This is why we call on our government to embrace open dialogue with civil society and respect our diverse perspectives.”

(euneighbourseast.eu)



Weather

Friday, February 2

Day ☀️ Clear
High: 8°C

Night 🌙 Clear
Low: -1°C

Saturday, February 3

Day ☁️ Partly Cloudy
High: 8°C

Night ☁️ Partly Cloudy
Low: 1°C

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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.

domus georgia & Tbilisi Center of Architecture, Design, and Creative Industries /TCADCI held the Presentation of domus georgia 5th issue on January 31 at Stamba Hotel.

The main topic of domus Georgia N5 "Memories of the Future" facilitates a discussion about the Future, sustainability and mankind memory of connections with nature: global climate changes, technological development, AI, the role of architecture in response to the challenges at Architectural Biennale 2023. The highlights of the edition is an

Memories of the Future

Presentation of Domus Georgia Issue N5 and Film screening

exclusive interview with well-known architects -Tod Williams and Billie Tsien, reportage of Exhibition at the Pompidou Center of Sir Norman Foster, Vittorio Magnago Lampuniani's article about Biennale 2023, Kengo Kumas, Carlo Scarpas, Alvaro Sizas projects, Tbilisi in Kirill Zdanevich's drawings by Nana Shervashidze, transformation and

europization of Tbilisi by Bela Tsipuria and many more.

In 2021 Georgia joined the big family of International Domus (www.domusweb.it), an iconic magazine in the field of Architecture, Design and Art since 1928. Domus is not only an iconic magazine but it is a mixed platform of knowledge, initiatives, projects, workshops, seminars, residences,

festivals, forums, etc. Georgia is the first and the only country in Post-Soviet states and Eastern Europe publishing the local edition of Domus International.

Distinguished names of architecture and design have closely collaborated with Domus along the years. Among the others, Gio Ponti (founder and Editor in Chief for many years), Alessandro Mendini, Deyan Sudjic, Stefano Boeri, David Chipperfield, Winy Maas, Tadao Ando, Jean Nouvel, Steven Hall, Toshiko Mori and many other leading architects and designers.







