

Parliament Chairman Papuashvili Criticizes EU Ambassador's Call for Judicial Integrity Check in Georgia



country.

Papuashvili noted that such statements over the past two years have led to an 'attack' against Georgian justice and specific judges.

"Yesterday, I was surprised by the statement of the acting ambassador regarding Vetting. I would have expected him to at least express his regret that the EU embassy was an instrument of a fake attack on Georgian justice. In fact, for two years, because of such statements, Georgian justice and specific judges have been the object of attack.

Yesterday, instead of hearing from the current ambassador of the European Union regret that the statement of the former ambassador at the time misled the public, was unfair to specific judges, was not based on facts, and was discrediting Georgian justice, we hear that it turns out that there is a need to check the integrity of Georgian judges. If someone's integrity is to be tested, it is our NGOs sector," said Papuashvili.

The Chairman reiterated that checking judges' integrity is unnecessary and emphasized that involving foreign citizens in vetting processes is unconstitutional and unacceptable to the Georgian people.

"During the discussion, it was revealed that there is no argument on anyone's side that there are systemic challenges requiring such a radical intervention, and therefore Vetting is not necessary.

Vetting with the participation of foreign citizens is against the constitution and categorically unacceptable for the Georgian people. No one is going to include Polish, Dutch, and Lithuanian experts here. This is unacceptable," said the Parliament Chairman.

BY LIZA MCHEDLIDZE

The Chairman of the Parliament of Georgia, Shalva Papuashvili, has

criticized Pawel Herczyński, the European Union Ambassador to Georgia, for his recent statement regarding the necessity of checking the integrity of judges

in Georgia. Herczyński emphasized that the goal is to establish a fully independent and professional judicial system in Georgia to strengthen democracy in the

Lelo Leader Khazaradze Accuses Georgian Dream Party of Intentionally Fostering Georgia's Economic Dependence on Russia

BY LIZA MCHEDLIDZE

Mamuka Khazaradze, Lelo party leader, criticized the Georgian Dream party, suggesting that its motives are disguised as Georgian, but in reality, its sole objective is to maintain power. Khazaradze alleged that the party's actions serve as direct Russian propaganda in Georgia. He pointed to examples such as visa-free travel and the scheduling of flights to cities that were not accessible from Tbilisi even during the Soviet Union era.

Lelo's leader emphasized that in the upcoming 2024 elections, the Georgian people's clear preference for European values

should be reflected.

"The Georgian people, who have repeatedly expressed their European choice, should reflect this in the 2024 elections.

The Georgian Dream party is disguised with pseudo-Georgian motivations, but in reality, it is driven by only one goal - to stay in power. Its other actions, whether hidden or not, serve as direct Russian propaganda in Georgia. This is evident in policies such as visa-free travel and the scheduling of flights to cities that were not even accessible from Tbilisi during the Soviet Union era.

This is manifested in the mass influx of Russians without

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Lelo Leader Khazaradze Accuses Georgian Dream Party of Intentionally Fostering Georgia's Economic Dependence on Russia

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visas in the last two years, not to mention the 'Gavrilov Night', nor the so-called Russian law on agents. Additionally, the direct attack on our strategic partners in the United States or various political leaders in Europe has also been very visible in the last two years.

Also, the slander and attempted impeachment of a Western-oriented president simply because the president was meeting with European leaders to discuss our future and support the choices of our people, and various similar things," Khazaradze stated.

Khazaradze emphasized the significance of publicizing statistics demonstrating the growing

economic dependence of Georgia on Russia. He accused the Georgian Dream party of intentionally fostering this dependence.

"Also, it is essential to publicize the statistics that reflect the increasing dependence of the Georgian economy on Russia. The Georgian Dream has intentionally made our economy reliant on Russia, as evidenced by the import-export dynamics of all

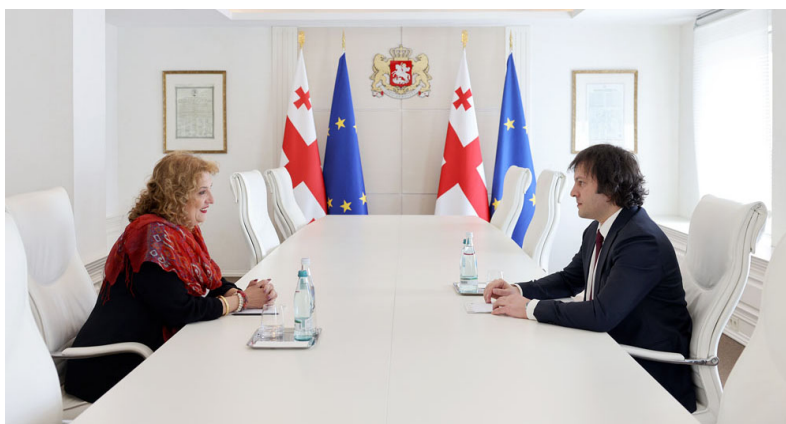
strategic products. Strategic items such as wheat, gasoline, and gas are imported, and we are not talking about a 20 or 40 percent share; we are talking about 90 percent of strategic products. Additionally, wine, one of our key export products, has almost 70 percent of its exports passing through Russia. This level of dependence does not happen by accident.

This is a deliberate policy, and from the outside, we are practically part of the Russian economy because 26,000 Russian companies were registered in Georgia in the last two years, and you cannot name even 100 European companies that were registered here during this period. This is the result," Khazaradze said.

The News in Brief

PREPARED BY MESSENGER STAFF

Prime Minister of Georgia Meets with Hungarian Ambassador Anna Mária Sikó



parties deliberated on enhancing sectoral ties between Georgia and Hungary. They emphasized the importance of fully leveraging the existing potential to deepen cooperation across various domains, including trade, economy, energy, education, and culture.

Foreign Minister of Georgia Ilia Darchiashvili Meets Argentinian Counterpart Diana Mondino

Foreign Minister of Georgia, Ilia Darchiashvili, met with his Argentine counterpart, Diana Mondino, during his official visit to Argentina. According to the Foreign Ministry, the meeting highlighted the strong and friendly ties between the two countries.

Darchiashvili emphasized deepening relations and increasing high-level contacts with Argentina, recognizing its importance as a regional and global player.

The ministers discussed the impact of the security environment on the international agenda and Georgia's enhanced regional and international role



following its EU candidate status. They also explored trade and economic ties, highlighting Georgia's favorable trade potential and its increased role in the Black Sea economic and security

space. Additionally, they praised Georgia's participation in Latin American and Caribbean cooperation formats and underscored the importance of maintaining this tradition.

The Prime Minister of Georgia, Irakli Kobakhidze, met with the Ambassador of Hungary to Georgia, Anna Mária Sikó.

According to the Prime Minister's press service, Kobakhidze expressed gratitude to Hungary for its active support of Georgia in the international arena. He also highlighted that the historic decision to grant Georgia the status of a candidate for EU membership clearly affirmed the progress the country has made on the path of European integration.

The Prime Minister expressed hope that Hungary will continue to support Georgia in this endeavor, especially as the country aims to transition to a new stage and commence negotiations on joining the European Union.

The significance of backing Hungary as the upcoming EU Presidency in this process was underscored. Additionally, the

EU appoints new head of its Monitoring Mission in Georgia



Major General Bettina Boughani

On 26 March, the Council of the European Union appointed a new head of the EU Monitoring Mission in Georgia (EUMM Georgia).

Major General Bettina Boughani was appointed from 21 March 2024 until 14 December 2024. She is a commissioned officer of the French National Gendarmerie with extensive experience in international relations and stabilisation missions.

Previously, she held various senior positions within the United Nations and the French Gendarmerie, as well as in the Ministry of the Interior. Most recently she was involved in conflict prevention, mediation, and peacekeeping in sensitive political and security contexts as MINUSMA's Police Commissioner (United Nations Multidimensional Integrated

Stabilisation Mission in Mali).

Bettina Boughani will succeed Dimitrios Karabalis.

EUMM Georgia is an unarmed civilian monitoring mission consisting of over 200 monitors from EU member states. It was deployed in October 2008 following the EU-mediated Six Point Agreement of 12 August 2008 and the subsequent agreement on Implementing Measures of 8 September 2008, which put an end to the conflict between Georgia and Russia.

The mission's mandate consists of stabilisation, normalisation and confidence building, as well as reporting to the EU in order to inform European policy-making and thus contribute to the future EU engagement in the region.

(euneighbourseast.eu)

Weather

Friday, March 29

Day ☀️ Clear
High: 18°C

Night ☁️ Mostly Cloudy
Low: 9°C

Saturday, March 30

Day ☁️ Partly Cloudy
High: 18°C

Night ☁️ Partly Cloudy
Low: 7°C

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