

Chairman Papuashvili Calls Senators' Warning on Foreign Agents Bill Surprising and Disappointing

By Liza Mchedlidze

Parliament Chairman Shalva Papuashvili responded to a letter from 14 senators, who warned that if the reintroduced foreign agents bill becomes law, they will advocate for a change in US policy toward Georgia. Papuashvili described the letter as surprising and disappointing in his response.

"Of course, such positions are somewhat surprising and disappointing. It's surprising because a country with stricter laws encourages us not to pass such a law.

It is disappointing because the values that are often talked about and that they talk to us about are not fully within the framework of these values itself, where transparency is the defining principle, and where the rule of law and democracy are the main principles.

In the end, it is crucial for us, once again, to have transparency in this area, and in the light of these calls, it is surprising that instead of so many calls, it would be easier for even the Congress or the Senate to take care of and publicize the money coming from the American budget to Georgia," Papuashvili said.



Papuashvili once again accused the National Endowment for Democracy of concealing financial information and breaking their promise on transparency.

"We sometimes learn by chance that money from the US budget, the money of American citizens, is spent in a roundabout way on financing parties, radical groups, and disinformation groups, which, of course, is not good for Georgian society and ultimately casts a shadow on American aid to Georgia," he said.

The Parliament Chairman emphasized that despite the 'baseless' international responses and reactions, the prevailing perception suggests that certain organizations actively avoid transparency.

"There remains a perception that the real problem is not with the law and its compliance with values, but rather that certain organizations do not want their finances to be made public. Transparency is beneficial on one hand, but it is avoided by those who hide something.

Therefore, if you think about it, we will find that behind the loudest critics of this law are the funds that hide their money in Georgia," Papuashvili said.

Georgian Dream Chairman Criticizes Western Response to Foreign Agents Law

By Liza Mchedlidze

Georgian Dream party Chairman Irakli Gharibashvili shared his thoughts on the recent letter from American senators about the 'Foreign Agents' Law, as well as the resolution passed by the European Parliament. He stressed the need for better communication with partners and friends, suggesting any issues be resolved privately.

Gharibashvili expressed disappointment with the letter, hinting that they may be based on misunderstandings. He emphasized the importance of continued dialogue to reassure American and European allies of Georgia's commitment to European integration and democracy, despite 'unfounded claims'.

"My wish is that we have fewer misunderstandings with our strategic partners and friends, and if there are any ambiguities and misunderstandings, they should be discussed behind closed doors." Regarding the letter, of course, it is very sad; perhaps the content and pathos of this letter are determined based on wrong perceptions.

We need to continue dialogue and communication with our

partners and friends. We must convince our American and European friends that Georgia is not doing anything unusual here, and it is not intended for Georgia to deviate from the path of European integration and democracy, regardless of any baseless statements that may have been made," Gharibashvili wrote.

The former prime minister sharply criticized the European Parliament's resolution, describing it as "unacceptable, unfair, and insulting", and accusing it of being malicious. He also highlighted another concerning aspect: a suggestion that the visa-free regime could be reevaluated. Gharibashvili questioned the appropriateness of such a tone in the resolution.

"In the same resolution, there's another malicious trick, hinting that the visa-free regime may be revised. How can you speak in such a tone?" Gharibashvili said.

According to Gharibashvili, the 'Foreign Agents' law does not change the foreign policy of the country and does not pose a threat to democracy. He accused MEPs of discrediting the European Parliament as an important institution.



The News in Brief

PREPARED BY MESSENGER STAFF

Bundestag Member Warns of Partnership Reconsideration if Georgian Dream Passes 'Foreign Agents' Law



Anikó Glogowski-Merten, a member of the Bundestag, has criticized the Foreign Agents law proposed by Georgian Dream, labeling it as an attack on democracy. She stated that the law contradicts European Union values and warned that its adoption could lead to a reassessment of

relations between Georgia and its partners. According to Glogowski-Merten, Foreign Agents law is designed to undermine independent civil society and the media.

"Similar laws do not exist in the European Union—and for good reason. The

reintroduction of the foreign agent law to discredit civil society and the media threatens Georgia's cooperation with its European allies. Therefore, we call on Georgian MPs and government officials to abandon plans to adopt such a law once and for all. If this law is adopted, we will be forced to completely review our coop-

eration in the field of development, including joint projects with the Georgian government," Glogowski-Merten said.

Lithuanian President Gitanas Nausėda Stated Georgia Moving Away From European Ideals

Lithuanian President Gitanas Nausėda stated that Georgia is moving away from European ideals.

According to local media reports, Presi-

dent Nausėda's assessment suggests that the 'foreign influence' bill is hindering Georgia on its path to European integration.

"In the past few days, I had a telephone conversation with the President of Georgia, Mrs. Zourabichvili. Unfortunately, the planned legislative changes clearly indicate that Georgia is not only failing to draw closer to, but also moving away from European ideals. This indeed creates obstacles for Georgia to continue on the path of European integration; therefore, we must react to this," Nausėda said.



Chornobyl Nuclear Disaster Anniversary: 'Let us never forget the past to safeguard our future,' says EU

On the tragic occasion of the Chornobyl Nuclear Disaster, which took place 38 years ago, the EU Delegation to Ukraine today honoured the lives of millions affected by the man-made disaster, and reaffirmed the EU's commitment to nuclear safety.

"We have been among the first to react. The EU has provided Euro 432 million for the Chornobyl New Safe Confinement. The EU's overall support to Ukraine since 1991 under TACIS (Technical Assistance to the Commonwealth of Independent States and INSC) amounts

to more than • 1 billion," the EU Delegation said in a statement released today.

The Delegation also said that Russia's illegal and unjustified aggression in Ukraine "again jeopardises nuclear safety, not only in Europe but with global ramifications". The EU reminds that Russia has targeted, damaged and occupied one of the largest nuclear facilities in the world – the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant.

"We are also thinking of the personnel of nuclear power plants all over Ukraine, who are ensuring safe operations and carrying out duties under constant attacks by Russia," the statement said. "Let us never forget the past to safeguard our future."

(euneighbourseast.eu)



Weather

Monday, April 29

Day ☀️ Clear
High: 29°C

Night 🌙 Clear
Low: 14°C

Tuesday, April 30

Day ☀️ Clear
High: 30°C

Night 🌧️ Partly Cloudy
Low: 15°C

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