

Parliamentary Secretary Giorgi Mskhiladze Clarifies President's Veto on 'Russian Law'

By Liza Mchedlidze

During a special briefing, Parliamentary Secretary of the President, Giorgi Mskhiladze, provided a comprehensive explanation regarding the President's veto on the "Foreign Agents" law. Mskhiladze asserted that the veto was justified, highlighting that it specifically addressed four articles of the Constitution that were violated by the law. Furthermore, he clarified why the law bore resemblance to Russian legislation.

Mskhiladze also criticized the actions of the parliamentary majority, accusing them of attempting to deceive the public. He emphasized that suggesting the President returned the veto without providing motivated comments on the Russian law to the Parliament was entirely false and amounted to a deliberate attempt to mislead the public.

Delving into the President's veto, Mskhiladze underscored its thorough motivation. He explained that it not only outlined the constitutional violations but also delved into the rationale behind the law's adoption and detailed the form in which the law was passed. Additionally, he reiterated the President's stance that the law is unacceptable and inadmissible.

Addressing the aspect of adding a single sentence to make the law effective for only one day,



Mskhiladze clarified that this was a standard legal technique required for repealing the law. He emphasized that if the law had not been enacted, it could not be repealed. Mskhiladze concluded by stating that the details of the veto would be made available on the official website and Facebook page of the President, ensuring transparency and accessibility to the public.

"The parliamentary majority is attempting to mislead the public by suggesting that the President of Georgia returned the veto on the Russian law on May 18 without providing motivated comments. This is false and constitutes a deliberate attempt to mislead the public.

The President's veto is motivated; it describes the four articles of the constitution violated by this law, explains why the law resembles Russian legislation, provides the rationale for its adoption, details the form in which this law was passed, and emphasizes that it is unacceptable and inadmissible for us.

Regarding the addition of a single sentence to make the law effective for only one day, this is a common legal technique necessary for repealing the law. If the law has not been enacted, it cannot be repealed. The details of the veto itself will be posted on the official website and Facebook page of the President," Mskhiladze stated.

Georgian Dream Plans Election Code Amendments Ahead of Parliamentary Elections

By Liza Mchedlidze

Five months prior to the parliamentary elections, Georgian Dream intends to implement additional amendments to the election code.

According to the draft law, authored by members of the parliamentary majority, the decision-making procedure at the CEC session will be altered.

Specifically, as per the ruling party's proposal, Article 8 of the Election Code should be appended to Article 4/1, with the following content:

"If, following voting at the CEC session, a decision requiring the support of at least two-thirds of the full composition of the CEC cannot be adopted, it will be subject to a re-vote during the same session. In this case, the decision will pass if most members of the CEC support it.

Based on the explanatory note, this is known as the "Anti-deadlock" mechanism designed

to address such situations.

"This change will contribute to the effective functioning of the Central Election Commission and prevent disruption of its activities," the explanatory note reads.

Furthermore, the draft law eliminates the advisory group of the CEC, which, according to the Election Code of Georgia, is formed during the election period within 10 days after the appointment of the elections.

"The expediency of canceling the advisory group of the CEC is confirmed by existing practical experience, which clearly demonstrated that this group, comprising international and/or local experts selected by the representative of the Public Defender's Office of Georgia and monitoring organizations, did not effectively function. This lack of functionality was primarily due to the monitoring organizations' reluctance to participate," the note reads.



CEC

ELECTION ADMINISTRATION OF GEORGIA

The News in Brief

PREPARED BY MESSENGER STAFF

Parliament to Override President's Veto on 'Foreign Agents' Law, Says Chairman Papuashvili



Chairman of parliament Shalva Papuashvili announced that Parliament will override the President's veto on the "Foreign Agents" law.

According to Papuashvili, the motivated remarks will be submitted to the Legal Committee for consideration during the Bureau's meeting and will be presented at the plenary session next week.

The Parliament Chairman stated that President Salome Zourabichvili closed the possibility for a discussion on the law by using the veto.

"I don't know where, or from whom, she receives her directives, but just as the hope and potential for meaningful discussion emerged, Salome Zourabichvili promptly shut it down. Now, we can question whose instructions she is following,"

he said.

Papuashvili accused the President's decision to set a one-day validity period for the law in her veto of being a mockery of society.

"Ms. Salome used all methods to show that she does not consider herself a citizen of this country, and this constitution is not her constitution. She does not consider these people her people. She mocks the Georgian people by suggesting that we should adopt a law that is effective for only one day. This is a general mockery of the Georgian people. After violating the

constitution, she started mocking the Georgian people.

[...] Of course, the parliament will override this veto because it demonstrates the Georgian essence of this law," Papuashvili said.

Parliament to Override President's Veto on 'Offshore Law'



At the Finance and Budget Committee meeting, the committee did not support the President's veto on the "Offshore Law". The final decision will be made in a plenary session vote.

In her motivated remarks, the President of Georgia completely removed the clause from the law that exempted assets registered in countries with preferential taxation (so-called offshore) from profit/income and import tax when transferred

to a company registered in Georgia.

The draft law also addressed tax amnesty, which remains unchanged in the President's motivational remarks.

According to the Georgian President, these legislative changes contain serious political and economic risks. Zourabichvili stated that it is unacceptable and inadmissible to adopt the law in an accelerated manner.

The President wrote that this law creates a discriminatory environment for investors and their investments. Zourabichvili emphasized that it is important not to create the risk of bypassing the law in the fight against money laundering.

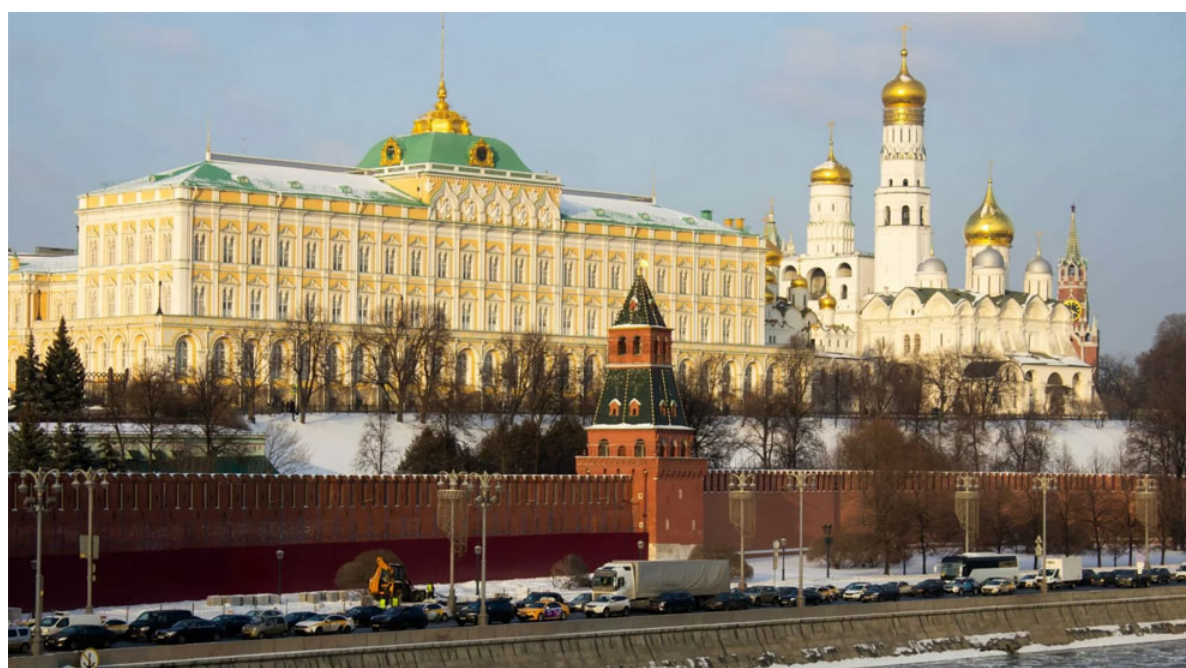
The President also pointed out that the law did not provide financial justification.

At the committee meeting, the majority deputies announced that they will override the veto.

Russian war against Ukraine: EU bans broadcasting activities of four more Russia-associated media outlets

On 17 May, the Council of the European Union decided to suspend the broadcasting activities in the EU of four additional media outlets, which spread and support the Russian propaganda and war of aggression against Ukraine: Voice of Europe, RIA Novosti, Izvestia, and Rossiyskaya Gazeta.

"These media outlets are under the permanent direct or indirect control of the leadership of the Russian Federation, and have been essential and instrumental in bringing forward and supporting Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, and for the destabilisation of its



neighbouring countries," the Council of the EU said in a press release.

Charter of Fundamental Rights, the new measures will not prevent the media and their staff from carrying out activities other than broadcasting in the EU, such as research and interviews. The Council of the EU reminds that the Russian Federation has engaged in "a systematic, international campaign of media and information manipulation, interference and grave distortion of facts in order to justify and support its full-scale aggression against Ukraine, and to enhance its strategy of destabilisation of its neighbouring countries, and of the EU and its member states".

In particular, the propaganda, information manipulation and interference activities have "repeatedly and consistently" targeted the Ukrainian state and its authorities, Ukrainian citizens, as well as European political parties, especially during election periods, also targeting civil society, asylum seekers, Russian ethnic minorities, gender minorities, and the functioning of democratic institutions in the EU and its member states. (eunighbourseast.eu)

Weather

Tuesday, May 21

Day Showers High: 22°C

Night Mostly Cloudy Low: 13°C

Wednesday, May 22

Day Cloudy High: 22°C

Night Partly Cloudy Low: 11°C

neighbouring countries," the Council of the EU said in a press release.

At the same time, under the

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.