

## Foreign Minister Darchiashvili Discusses Ambassadorial Meetings in Berlin on European Integration

By Liza Mchedlidze

Georgian Foreign Minister Iliia Darchiashvili stated in Germany that the goal is for every ambassador working in EU member states and various organizations in Europe to be fully informed about the issues, challenges, and opportunities facing Georgia.

Darchiashvili explained that during his meeting with Georgian ambassadors in Europe and the United States, discussions focused on the opportunities and challenges the country faces in the context of European integration.

Georgian Foreign Minister Iliia Darchiashvili stated that Germany is a key supporter of Georgia's European integration and that they have mobilized strong support from various EU member states, including Germany. He mentioned that last year, they held a conference of ambassadors in Berlin to discuss future steps for European integration, and this tradition continued this year with similar consultations in Berlin, attended by the Prime Minister of Georgia. The discussions focused on the opportunities and challenges Georgia faces in its path toward European integration.

Darchiashvili emphasized the importance of keeping ambassadors fully informed about the country's issues, challenges, and opportunities to turn challenges



into opportunities and continue the integration process. He highlighted that the discussions were open and healthy, allowing ambassadors to ask questions and receive answers from the Prime Minister.

"Germany is one of the main supporters of our European integration. We were able to mobilize very strong support from various EU member states, Germany was, is and will be one of

them. Last year, we held a conference of ambassadors in Berlin, where we talked about the steps to be taken in the future for the successful implementation of European integration. This tradition continued this year, and a symbolic gesture from our side is similar consultations with the Georgian ambassadors in Berlin. We are glad that this year's event was held with the participation of the

Prime Minister of Georgia.

We traditionally talk about the opportunities and challenges that our country has in the direction of European integration. Our foreign policy priorities are clear. We want each ambassador who works in the EU member states and in various organizations in Europe to be fully informed about the issues that are in the country, what challenges the country has and the

opportunities that we need to use, in order to turn challenges into opportunities and continue our European integration. We are very optimistic in this direction. Ambassadors are given the opportunity to ask the Prime Minister questions, receive answers, and this is a very healthy, open discussion, which is a continuation of our tradition," said the Minister of Foreign Affairs.

## Economy Minister Emphasizes 'Responsible' Selection of Private Partner for Anaklia Project

By Liza Mchedlidze

In response to media inquiries about the Anaklia port project, the Minister of Economy of Georgia, Levan Davitashvili said that there is a constant dialogue with strategic partners. Davitashvili stated he is directly involved in this process to ensure that the partners have complete information about the project.

"As you know, there were talks about one company. We also have another company in the consortium - China Harbor Investment, as well as several subcontractors, and we also consider the involvement of several important, high-reputation, including the Chinese international shipping line - in general, it will be a complex ecosystem, where a consortium made up of many partners will cooperate with the state so that we get the highest possible quality development of this port and Georgia's strategic and commercial interests will be taken into account as much as possible," Davitashvili said.

According to the Economy Minister, the process of selecting a private partner is being carried

out with maximum responsibility. He mentioned that it will likely take several more weeks of dialogue to clarify the issues he has discussed publicly. This is to ensure that the proposals received from the consortium fully meet the tender requirements.

"Probably, it will take several more weeks of dialogue to clarify the issues I talked about, including publicly, so that the proposals received from the consortium are fully in line with our tender requirements. If this happens, of course, we will announce the winner and continue to cooperate with them and work on an agreement," said the Minister of Economy.

Davitashvili also provided details about the start of marine works in Anaklia. He explained that the Belgian international engineering company, serving as a consultant to the state on the construction aspects, is currently clarifying the details, a process expected to take about one or two weeks.

"Within the framework of the Anaklia port project, work is being carried out intensively, and naturally, we want quality results to be achieved in both directions," said Davitashvili.



The News in Brief

PREPARED BY MESSENGER STAFF

Prime Minister of Georgia Irakli Kobakhidze Condemns 'Double Standards' in Criticism of Economic Relations with China



Prime Minister of Georgia Irakli Kobakhidze stated that it is a double standard to criticize Georgia for deepening economic

relations with China, given that "China is one of the main trade partners for both the European Union and the United States". He emphasized that such double standards are unacceptable.

Kobakhidze expressed respect for the US ambassador and hoped she would positively contribute to Georgian-American

relations. He pointed out that fair and just evaluations are essential for healthy relationships and noted that Georgia often faces unfair assessments. He claimed that Georgia's actions

serve its national interests and that the country will continue on its current path despite these criticisms, as double standards and injustice are counterproductive to improving relations with partner countries.

"I think that there is an absolutely unfair attitude on the part of specific partner countries. In fact, everyone knows that China is one of the most important trade partners for the European Union and the United States of America. When we hear Georgia's criticism for deepening economic relations with China, it is a double standard, and for us such a double standard is absolutely unacceptable. An important and necessary condition for healthy relationships is justice, fair evaluations. Unfortunately, we often hear unfair assessments regarding the steps taken by our state. These steps serve the national interests of our country, and therefore, naturally, we will continue to act in the relevant direction in the future. Double standards and injustice are counterproductive for the improvement of relations between us and our partner countries," said Kobakhidze.

Parliament Begins Review of 'LGBT Propaganda' Law with Unanimous Committee Support



On June 20, the parliament commenced the committee review of the "LGBT Propaganda" law at the Legal Issues Committee, along with a joint session involving four other committees: Human Rights Protection and Civil Integration, Education, Science and Youth Affairs, Sectoral Economy and Economic Policy, and Health Protection

and Social Issues. During the joint session, all four committees unanimously agreed to endorse the submission of the legislative package for its first reading in the plenary session. The Legal Issues

Committee also supported this decision.

The opposition did not participate in the discussion at the joint session. Only Girchi deputy Vakhtang Megrelishvili attended, posed a question to speaker Rati Ionatamishvili, and left the hall after receiving the answer.

Didier Trebucq assumes duties as the United Nations Resident Coordinator in Georgia

On Thursday, Didier Trebucq, the new United Nations Resident Coordinator in Georgia, formally presented his credentials to the President of Georgia, H.E. Salome Zourabichvili.

Mr. Trebucq expressed his appreciation to President Salome Zourabichvili for Georgia's enduring partnership with the United Nations and reiterated the UN's unwavering commitment to supporting the people of Georgia on the country's sustainable development pathway.

"I am deeply honored to lead the UN team in Georgia," he said. "I look forward to collaborating with our national and international partners to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and build a just, sustainable and peaceful future for all, especially those most in need."



Earlier today, Didier Trebucq presented copies of his credentials to Mr. Lasha Darsalia, First Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Georgia.

The United Nations Secre-

tary-General António Guterres appointed Didier Trebucq of France as the United Nations Resident Coordinator in Georgia on 17 June with the host Government's approval.

Mr. Trebucq brings more than 24 years of experience in sustainable development, climate change, social cohesion, peace and development, crisis prevention and humanitarian action

with the United Nations and International Organizations. He previously served as the UN Resident Coordinator for Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean states, covering ten countries and territories and leading a sub-regional team of more than 20 UN Agencies, Funds and Programmes. His extensive experience with the UN also includes serving as the UNDP Country Director in Brazil, the UNDP Deputy Resident Representative respectively in Peru and Guyana, and the Team Leader for Crisis Prevention and Recovery with UNDP India.

Before joining the United Nations, he worked as Head of Delegation of the French Red Cross in Colombia and Ecuador, with Doctors Without Borders in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, and the private sector in France.

He holds a Master's degree in Sustainable Development with a specialization in environmental economics from Imperial College London (UK), and a Maitrise in Business Administration and Management from the Institut Français de Gestion (France).

Weather

Friday, June 21

Day Partly Cloudy High: 29°C

Night Clear Low: 19°C

Saturday, June 22

Day Partly Cloudy High: 29°C

Night Partly Cloudy Low: 17°C

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.