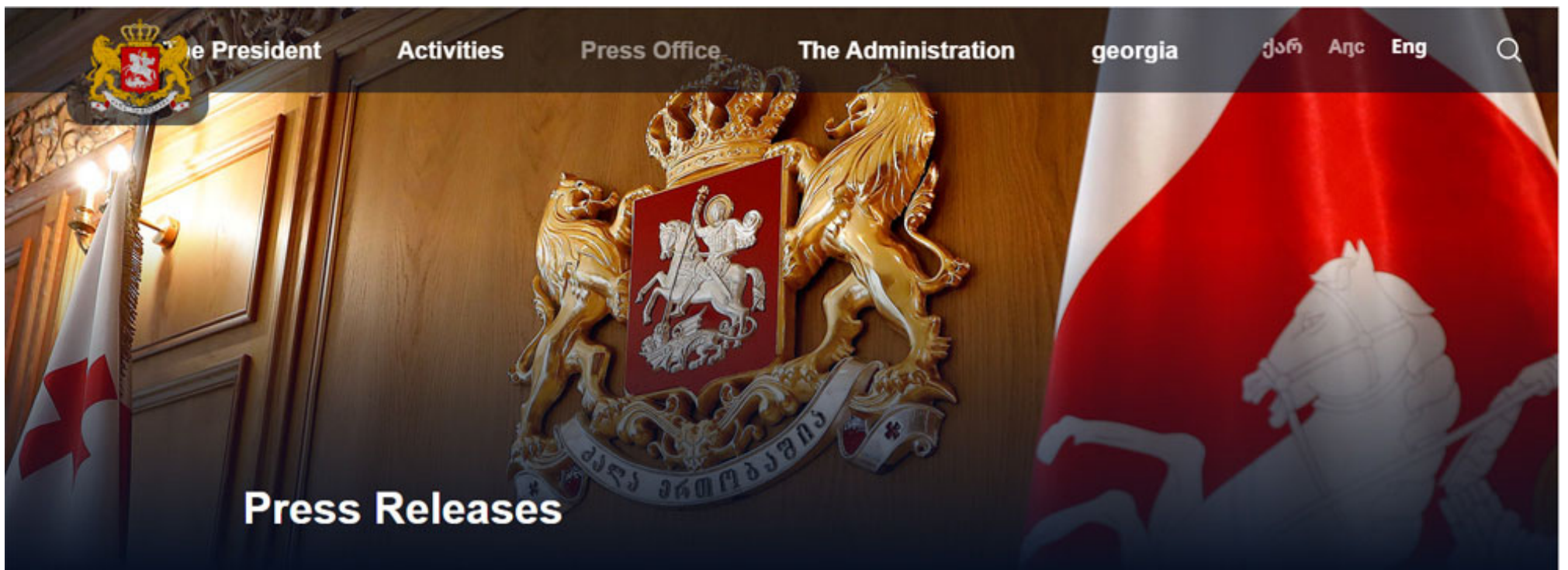


## Submission Period for High Council of Justice Membership Ends, Selection Process Commences



BY LIZA MCHEDLIDZE

The submission of applications for membership in the High Council of Justice to the Administration of the President of Georgia ended on July 1.

To ensure complete transparency in the selection process and boost public confidence in the candidates, the President of Georgia established an independent

selection commission on June 21. This commission will assess the qualifications, independence, reputation, and integrity of the candidates based on their submissions and individual interviews. The commission will then submit its recommendations to the President of Georgia.

According to the Administration of the President, five appli-

cations have been received. The selection commission is currently reviewing the compliance of these documents with legal requirements. Candidate interviews are scheduled for next week and will be broadcast live on the President's official social media channels.

The selection process for the non-judge members of the High Council of Justice will be moni-

tored by experts from the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR).

The term of office for the current non-judge members, appointed by the President of Georgia, expires on July 22, 2024.

This selection process is a crucial part of the broader reforms outlined in the Georgian Charter, drawn up by the

President, to enhance the integrity and independence of the High Council of Justice. An independent and impartial commission will evaluate and verify the qualifications, integrity, and independence of the council members, ensuring the selection of the most competent and trustworthy candidates.

## UNM's Petre Tsiskarishvili Criticizes Prime Minister Kobakhidze Over OSCE Resolution Response

BY LIZA MCHEDLIDZE

Petre Tsiskarishvili, a member of the United National Movement party, has strongly criticized Prime Minister Irakli Kobakhidze's reaction to the resolution adopted at the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, accusing the ruling party of serving Bidzina Ivanishvili and living under a dictatorship.

"Practically all points related to Georgia in this declaration are unclear for Kobakhidze. These people are ready to serve Bidzina Ivanishvili until the end of their lives and live under the dictatorship, which neither we nor the Georgian people will tolerate," Tsiskarishvili said.

Tsiskarishvili claimed that the resolution, which addresses

sensitive issues for the ruling Georgian Dream party, highlights concerns over national interests and democratic values.

"These people are directly against the national interests of Georgia, as well as the democratic values on which Europe, OSCE, and the European Union stand. They see this and are against it in Europe as well, and all this was reflected in the Bucharest declaration," he added.

He also mentioned that the resolution calls for the withdrawal of Russian troops from Georgian territory and raises concerns about potential election rigging by the Georgian Dream party. The resolution suggests the presence of a long-term observation mission from the West

CONTINUED ON Page 2



Exchange Rates: US Dollar - 2.7860; Euro - 3.0089; GBP - 3.5549; 100 Russian Ruble - 3.1541; Swiss Franc - 3.0931

# UNM's Petre Tsiskarishvili Criticizes Prime Minister Kobakhidze Over OSCE Resolution Response

CONTINUED FROM Page 1

to ensure fair elections. "The fact that Russian troops should leave the territory of Georgia is obvious and will be repeated many times. This also scares the representatives of Georgian Dream to some extent. The more painful points are the election process and the risk of

dramatically rigging the elections. There is also a call for long-term observation mission observers from the West," Tsiskarishvili stated.

According to Tsiskarishvili, the resolution also criticizes Bidzina Ivanishvili and his team for undermining democratic values within Georgia by adopting Russian laws.

Prime Minister Kobakhidze expressed his discontent with the resolution, stating that it contains several "incomprehensible entries" without providing further details.

"This resolution contains a number of incomprehensible entries, which is very regrettable, very sad. However, I don't want to go into the depth of it," Kobakhidze said.

## The News in Brief

PREPARED BY MESSENGER STAFF

### Georgian Officials Mourn Pilot Kakhaber Zurabashvili Following Su-25 Crash



Prime Minister Irakli Kobakhidze, Speaker of the Parliament Shalva Papuashvili, Minister of Defense Irakli Chikovani, Deputy Ministers, and high-ranking officials of the Georgian Defense Forces gathered in Gori to express their condolences to the family and relatives of pilot Kakhaber Zurabashvili. Zurabashvili tragically died in the crash of a Su-25 aircraft belonging to the Georgian Defense Forces.

Since the early morning, a large crowd has formed near the residence of the deceased pilot. Heads and representatives of various structural units of the Defense Forces have been arriving to offer their condolences to the bereaved family.

President of Georgia Salome Zourabichvili was also in attendance at the funeral, showing solidarity and support to the grieving family.

The Su-25 aircraft crashed on July 2 during planned training exercises. Kakhaber Zurabashvili, a pilot in the Aviation and Air Command of the Defense Forces, lost his life in the incident. He will be laid to rest in Gori on Saturday, July 6.

### Georgia's National Football Team Receives GEL 30 Million Bonus for Euro 2024 Debut

Bidzina Ivanishvili and the Cartu Foundation have awarded GEL 30 million to the Georgian national football team for their remarkable performance in the group stage of the European Championship, advancing to the round of 16.

The captain of the Georgian national team, Guram Kashia, expressed gratitude

on behalf of the team. "We thank Bidzina Ivanishvili and the Cartu Foundation for supporting football in Georgia. This is vital for the sport's development in our country. We also want to thank our fans for their incredible support. The scenes on the streets of Tbilisi on July 2 filled us with joy and energy. With this unity and teamwork, we will strive for more successes," Kashia said.

The bonus has already been received by the team members as a reward for their historic achievement.



### Winners of EU-supported 'Meliora 2024' prize announced in Georgia

On 2 July, the best Georgian Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) projects and companies of 2024 were unveiled at the ceremony at Tbilisi History Museum 'Karvasla'.

Of the nine categories in 'Meliora 2024,' winners were identified in the following seven:

Category 'Green Initiative'  
Winner large company: Tegeta Holding, project 'Green



Standard'  
Winner SME: Polyvim, project 'Green Initiative'  
Category 'Responsible Employer'  
Winner large company: Basisbank, project 'Responsible

Employer'  
Category 'Supporting Communities'  
Winner large company: Hilton Batumi, project 'Supporting Communities'  
Winner SME: Clip-art, project

### 'Book Club'

Category 'Cross-Sector Partnership - Shared Responsibility'

Winner large company: Zgapari, Partner association 'Life Change', project 'Professional orientation and empowerment of youth in state care'

Category 'Transparency and Report on CSR and Corporate Sustainability'

Winner large company: TBC Bank, project 'Sustainability Report 2022'

Category 'CSR Manager of the year'

Winner: Natia Sirbiladze, company 'Exactpro'

Category 'Responsible large company of the year'

Winner large company: TBC Bank

Nicholas Cendrowicz, the Head of Cooperation Section at

the Delegation of the European Union to Georgia, said: "The Meliora awards is a good example of the EU working with Georgian civil society and business associations to embed responsibility and sustainability into the core strategies of Georgian businesses. It demonstrates that responsible business conduct leads to long-term financial success as well as social good."

This contest was conducted with the assistance of the Center for Strategic Research and Development of Georgia (CSR DG), as part of the European Union (EU) and Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS) funded project 'Civil Society STAR Initiative: CSOs as Sustainable, Transparent, Accountable, and Resilient Development Actors in Georgia.'

(euneighbourseast.eu)

## Weather

### Friday, July 5

Day ☀️ Clear  
High: 36°C

Night 🌙 Clear  
Low: 21°C

### Saturday, July 6

Day ☀️ Clear  
High: 36°C

Night 🌧️ Mostly Cloudy  
Low: 21°C

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