

Georgian President Calls for Global Unity Against Russian Aggression at Crimea Summit

By MESSENGER STAFF

Salome Zourabichvili, President of Georgia, addressed the Fourth Crimea Platform Summit, marking 10 years since Russia's illegal annexation of Crimea and over 900 days of its war against Ukraine. She emphasized the global significance of Ukraine's fight for freedom and sovereignty, drawing parallels to the September 11 attacks and calling for continued resistance against Russian aggression to uphold international law and peace in Europe.

"Mr. President, distinguished audience,

It has been 10 years since Russia invaded Crimea and illegally annexed it, and for over 900 days now, Russia has been waging a brutal war against Ukraine.

Is it a coincidence that this summit is taking place on September 11th? That 23 years ago, terror struck at the heart of freedom and democracy, killing and injuring thousands of innocent civilians? And that today, terror has erupted again, but this time in the heart of Europe — in Lviv and Poltava? This reminds us that we will not tolerate [this terror], that the fight for freedom, for human values, for human dignity, for sovereignty, independence, and democracy is uncompromising. Only after achieving this can we hope to attain lasting peace.

The ongoing war in Ukraine has revealed the true face of Russian aggression—a ruthless, cruel campaign that targets not only soldiers on the battlefield but especially innocent civilians, children, and Ukrainian society as a whole.

This is not just Ukraine's tragedy; it is a warning to the world that if Russia is not stopped, it will continue to use these brutal methods—whether through direct traditional warfare, military occupation, hybrid warfare, or disinformation campaigns — to achieve its imperialist ambitions.

In the face of this barbarism, Ukraine has once again shown remarkable courage and resilience, and the world is in awe of the strength and endurance of Ukrainians, which can only be described as heroic. This is an inspiration to all of us.

Ukraine has shattered the image of an



all-powerful Russian army and proven that the invincibility of Russia was a myth, that Russia could not capture Kyiv in 3 days, nor in 900 days, nor weaken Ukrainian society, nor drive Ukraine away from the support of its European and American friends. This is because we all understand that Ukrainians are not only defending their own country, but they are fighting for all of us.

The full restoration of Ukraine's territorial integrity is a critical step in ensuring peace and stability because Russia must learn to respect borders—not only in Ukraine but also in Georgia, Moldova, and the rest of Europe. For too long, Moscow has disregarded international norms,

attempted to change borders by force, and undermined the sovereignty of its neighbors. This behavior can no longer be tolerated.

As we have all seen, peace and stability in the Black Sea region are crucial for the entire region and continent, as it represents a key hub for trade, energy, and communication. It is an important link in the chain of security for Europe and beyond, and its [the Black Sea's] stability is directly connected to the security of the whole continent. Therefore, Russia's expansion in the Black Sea region, from the occupation of Abkhazia to the annexation of Crimea, or its recent steps — such as opening a military na-

val base in occupied Abkhazia — must not be accepted.

This war is truly about defending the principles of international law, respecting borders, and upholding the rights of nations to live in peace. And while Ukraine continues its fight for its own and Europe's freedom, I want to once again emphasize that the Georgian people stand with you, the world stands with you, and together, we will show that the free world cannot be intimidated by those who seek division, destruction, and conquest.

Slava Ukraini!" stated the president Zourabichvili.

President Zourabichvili Warns of Georgia's Existential Choice in Upcoming Elections: European Path or Russian Influence

LE FIGARO

By MESSENGER STAFF

Georgian President Salome Zourabichvili, in an interview with the French newspaper Le Figaro, stated that she is "ready to take on a great responsibility, including the [presidential] second term, for Georgia to return to the European path." Her current term is set to conclude in December. Moving forward, the President will no longer be elected through a popular vote but by Parliament, consisting of a 300-member electoral college made up of MPs, as well as local and regional authorities, a change introduced by the 2017

constitutional amendments.

In an interview with Le Figaro, the Georgian President discussed the upcoming parliamentary elections and their potential outcomes. She remarked that "we have to be ready for anything" from the government, including "the machinations," such as creating difficulties for Georgians abroad to vote, as well as exploiting administrative resources and propaganda related to the war or LGBT issues. Referring to polls, she predicted that the ruling party "will get no more than 25 percent."

Zourabichvili predicted that

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Exchange Rates: US Dollar - 2.6970; Euro - 2.9786; GBP - 3.5271; 100 Russian Ruble - 2.9597; Swiss Franc - 3.1868

President Zourabichvili Warns of Georgia's Existential Choice in Upcoming Elections: European Path or Russian Influence

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the pro-Western opposition would emerge victorious in the October elections. She mentioned the opposition, stating that it "cannot be united given the recent past, but it can be

consolidated enough around the European idea to get the 50 or 60 percent of votes."

She also commented on the "foreign agents" law, emphasizing that it hasn't been labeled the "Russian law" without reason, as this is the law Putin used

to control Russian civil society. Furthermore, she accused the Georgian government of attempting to "cut the country off from Europe" and turn it into a "Russian protectorate."

When asked how France and the EU could support Georgia,

the President responded: "They should say and reiterate that what the Georgian government is doing is contrary to the European path." While she expressed that she was "not very much in favour of sanctions," she noted they could be misinterpreted by the public, adding that "it does not exclude the announcement of what will happen after the elections, if the pro-Russian orientation is confirmed."

The President emphasized that the upcoming elections are essentially a referendum on Georgia's European future.

"There is a very clear decision by the Georgian government to

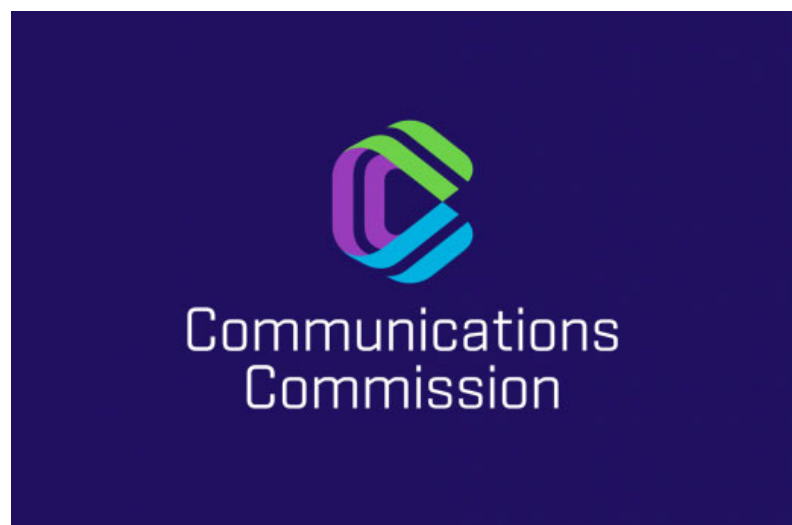
move closer to Moscow," Zourabichvili stated, highlighting that this became particularly evident after Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine. She also pointed out that Georgian politics is currently dominated by GD honorary chairman Bidzina Ivanishvili, whom she referred to as an "oligarch." She said that Ivanishvili's ties with Moscow are "the most opaque."

"Georgia is facing an existential choice—to follow its European destiny with the parliamentary elections on October 26, or to return to the service of Russia, under a regime modelled on Putin's regime," the President said.

The News in Brief

PREPARED BY MESSENGER STAFF

ComCom Rules in Favour of Georgian Dream, Orders Mtavari TV to Air Controversial Campaign Ad



sentatives are shown in black with the words "Say no to moral degradation" written over them in red (See Frame 1); in another frame, opposition politicians are also shown in black with blood stains over them and the words "Say no to the dark past" are written over them, again in red

On September 11, the Communications Commission (ComCom) upheld Georgian Dream's complaint and issued a protocol of administrative violations against Mtavari TV for refusing to air GD's political campaign advertisement.

The TV channel refused to broadcast the advertisement, claiming that the video contained "hate speech" and could violate the Broadcasting Law or the Advertising Law of Georgia.

The channel specifically pointed to two frames from the video: in one frame, CSO repre-

sentatives are shown in black with the words "Say no to moral degradation" written over them in red (See Frame 1); in another frame, opposition politicians are also shown in black with blood stains over them and the words "Say no to the dark past" are written over them, again in red

According to ComCom, during a public meeting yesterday, the Commission listened to arguments from both sides and determined that the ad "doesn't contain hate speech or supporting violence or incitement to violence". It noted: "The video produced by the campaign unit is intended to present the pre-election vision of the political union," ComCom said, adding: "Therefore, the video presented does not violate the requirements of the legislation in force and the broadcaster was obliged to broadcast it."

Kharishin, by Ukrainian Foreign Minister Andrii Sybiha is connected to a number of complex reasons, including the desire to enhance the work of ambassadors.

According to Ukrainian media, this statement was made by the spokesperson for Ukraine's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Georgii Tykhyi, during a briefing.

Commenting on the issue, he said that "this is not about a name or certain nuances" but rather about "complex reasons that led the new head of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to make such a decision."

"This decision was made in the context of strengthening the work of ambassadors, analyzing their activities, engagement, and results, as well as considering the need to align the diplomatic system with the realities of war, where results are crucial," he added.

The representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs also called it "inaccurate" to connect

d'affaires in Georgia, Mykhailo Kharishin.

As the minister wrote on



the decision to recall the chargé d'affaires to individual issues.

On September 9, it became known that Ukraine's Foreign Minister Andrii Sybiha had recalled Ukraine's chargé

Facebook, the foreign ministry must respond to the realities of a country at war. He stated that the ambassadors of a country at war cannot be detached from the realities of that conflict.

Weather

Thursday, September 12

Day ☀️ Clear
High: 32°C

Night 🌧️ Partly Cloudy
Low: 19°C

Friday, September 13

Day 🌧️ Partly Cloudy
High: 29°C

Night 🌧️ Partly Cloudy
Low: 18°C

Ukraine Recalls Chargé d'Affaires in Georgia Amid Efforts to Strengthen Diplomatic Engagement in War-Time

The recall of Ukraine's chargé d'affaires in Georgia, Mykhailo

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23, 25 AUGUST
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15, 17, 18, 20
SEPTEMBER
TBILISI | Tbilisi State Conservatoire

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Artistic Director
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სერენადები
NIGHT SERENADES

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