

By LIZ MCHEDLIDZE

Papuashvili Meets with OSCE Parliamentary Assembly President

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly recently shared an update on a meeting held on the margins of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) Assembly in Tashkent. Parliament Chairman Shalva Papuashvili met with the President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, Pia Kauma. According to the OSCE, the main topic of their discussion was the implementation of the OSCE/ODIHR recommendations following Georgia's parliamentary elections held last year.

"On the margins of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) Assembly in Tashkent, the President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, Pia Kauma, met with the Speaker of the Georgian Parliament, Shalva Papuashvili, and the Head of the Georgian Delegation to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, Nikoloz Samkharadze. The discussion focused on the implementation of the OSCE/ODIHR recommendations following last year's elections," the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly wrote on X.

After the meeting, Shalva Papuashvili reflected on the discussions with Kauma.

"I had the opportunity to meet with the President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, who, as the public knows, was the head of the OSCE observation mission during the 2024 parliamentary elections," Papuashvili said.

He also discussed the developments that had taken place since the elections, particularly highlighting his appreciation for the OSCE/ODIHR's election monitoring efforts.

"I thanked her once again for the work that the OSCE/ODIHR Election Observation Mission did in terms of observing the elections and making assessments. It is important that everyone respects the OSCE/ODIHR report regarding the elections. Before the elections, we understood that the OSCE/ODIHR report would be a guideline for assessing the elections, but then it turned out that everyone was trying to turn a blind eye to the OSCE/ODIHR report, which clearly states the validity of the results that came after the parliamentary elections," Papuashvili remarked.



He also expressed concern that some were disregarding the OSCE/ODIHR's findings and, instead, were offering personal opinions about the election results.

"Everyone is trying to express their personal opinions regarding the elections. We also talked about cooperation with the OSCE, as well as the recommendations that exist after the elections, both

in terms of legislation and electoral practice," the Speaker said.

Papuashvili noted the ongoing efforts to improve the election process, particularly focusing on the local elections. He emphasized the need for legislative amendments to enhance the technical aspects of the election process and the overall electoral environment.

"We also mentioned that we are working to ensure that the local elections are held even better both at the technical level and in terms of the electoral environment. For this, legislative amendments are also needed. We have implemented it and the CEC is working on the issues under its competence," Papuashvili added.



Papuashvili Discusses Amendments to the Law on Grants

By LIZA MCHEDLIDZE

Chairman of the Georgian Parliament, Shalva Papuashvili, discussed the recent amendments to the Law on Grants, which will introduce a new system requiring donors, rather than NGOs, to obtain consent before issuing grants. Papuashvili clarified that the consent required will not be for receiving a grant, but for issuing one.

"With the amendments to the Law on Grants, there will be a system where the donor must obtain consent, not the NGO. This will be consent not to receive a grant, but to issue a grant," Papuashvili explained.

He emphasized that it is crucial for the Georgian people to know what is being financed in their country and whether the funding aligns with their interests.

"Unfortunately, there are many irresponsible donors, with whom we have been talking for months, years about how they should behave responsibly. We see that they give money, and then with this money they do things like advertise the 'Molotov cocktail,' carry out fascist campaigns, and commit violent acts. When we ask donors about this, they act like it is not their responsibility. They are spending the money of the people of their country and they should behave

responsibly. They harm the interests of our society when they finance advertising of Molotov cocktails, etc. Therefore, it is important that the Georgian people know what is being financed in Georgia and that what is happening in Georgia is in the interests of the Georgian people."

Papuashvili further explained that the new system would ensure greater transparency, with citizens being able to track what is being financed and the purpose behind it.

"The system will be that the donor must obtain consent, not the NGO. This will be consent not to receive a grant, but to

CONTINUED ON Page 2

Exchange Rates: US Dollar - 2.7563; Euro - 3.0143; GBP - 3.5179; 100 Russian Ruble - 3.2162; Swiss Franc - 3.2237

Papuashvili Discusses Amendments to the Law on Grants

CONTINUED FROM Page 1

issue a grant. If the donor wants to issue a grant, they must ap-

ply to the government or a subject designated by the government and obtain consent to issue a grant. This will ensure

that the process will be fully transparent for citizens and everyone will know what money is circulating, what is being fi-

nanced, what projects are being financed."

He emphasized that this system will also ensure that foreign funding serves the interests of Georgia, rather than those of other countries or political entities.

"In addition, it will be ensured that this is done in the interests of the Georgian people, and not

in the interests of the Estonian government, or in the interests of any other country. We are citizens of Georgia and everything should be done in our interests, not in the interests of other peoples and their political interests, which, unfortunately, is the case in some cases," Papuashvili said.

The News in Brief

PREPARED BY MESSENGER STAFF

TV Pirveli Cameraman Alleges Ministry Pursuing Administrative Case Over Online Criticism



Lasha Jioshvili, a cameraman for TV Pirveli, alleges that the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA) has launched administrative proceedings against him following a Facebook post in which he criticized the ministry.

Jioshvili shared a video on social media showing a police officer reportedly issuing a report of a violation. He claims that the MIA is pursuing charges under Article 173, Part 2 of Georgia's Administrative Code, which pertains to verbal insults directed at police officers.

"The patrol police officers called me and told me that a case has been opened against me... They said they are filing a law-

suit with the court," he said in a statement aired by TV Pirveli.

Jioshvili asserts that the proceedings relate to a post made on April 6, where he accused patrol police of violating the law and used profanity in reference

going to delete it... I still have that opinion, of course. We will meet in court," he said.

He also criticized the police for, in his view, monitoring citizens' social media posts instead of focusing on crime.

"People who should be fighting crime are sitting and watching my Facebook posts... If you think that you will change something for your own good, I want to tell you that you are changing it for the worse. We will meet in court, and, of course, fire on the oligarchy."

TI Georgia Criticizes Proposed Restrictions on Foreign Grants

Eka Gigauri, Executive Director of Transparency International Georgia criticized the government's proposed amendments to the Law on Grants, calling it an "act of persecution against the Georgian people."

According to the proposed amendments, obtaining a foreign grant would require prior consent from the government or an authorized official. Any grant received without such approval would be prohibited and could result in legal consequences.

Gigauri said the move is a direct response to the solidarity and activism of the Georgian

public.

"This is an act of persecution of the Georgian people. Through-

stated.

She added that civil society organizations will continue their



out this period, we have seen how the Georgian Dream was afraid of the solidarity of the Georgian people. They were afraid of people who help each other, they were afraid of people who defend the rights of the detainees," she

work despite the potential legal obstacles.

"We will continue our activities and do everything so that those people who seek solidarity can see it. We are confident that we will win this fight."

to the MIA.

"I posted a specific violation of the law by the police. I am not

Lviv kicks off Year of Youth by gathering thousands of people for the opening of the European Youth Capital 2025

Lviv has officially launched its title as the European Youth Capital 2025 with a three-day celebration from 3 to 5 April. The event marked the start of a year dedicated to empowering young people across Ukraine and fostering youth initiatives. The opening event was supported by the 'EU4Youth: Youth Engagement and Empowerment' project, alongside other partners.

The launch began with an opening ceremony on 3 April at the Lviv National Opera, where symbolic performances were combined with addresses from national and international speakers, including

a speech by EU Commissioner for Intergenerational Fairness, Youth, Culture and Sport, Glenn Micallef. The Chair of the European Parliament's Committee on Culture and Education, Nela Riehl, highlighted the opportunities this title brings for Lviv and its young people. Speeches were also delivered by Minister for Youth and Sports of Ukraine, Matviy Bidnyi, First Deputy Minister for Culture and Strategic Communications of Ukraine, Halyna Hryhorenko, Mayor of Lviv Andrii Sadovyi, and other distinguished guests.

The second day was marked by various side events and city tours, with a highlight being the Evening of Remembrance at the Garrison Church of the Holy Apostles Peter and Paul. The Requiem Concert honored the memory of young Ukrainians

who lost their lives defending freedom and dignity.

The Grand Opening of the European Youth Capital 2025, held on 5 April, attracted over 10,000 registrations and brought together several thousand young people from across Ukraine. Deputy Head of the EU Delegation to Ukraine, Remi Dufлот, addressed participants, reaffirming the EU's steadfast support for Ukraine and its youth. Throughout the day, participants enjoyed performances, interactive zones, discussions, and networking opportunities.

A key moment of the day was the workshop on grant application and implementation, organised by 'EU4Youth: Youth Engagement and Empowerment' project. This interactive session was held with the participation of youth organisations implementing

EU4Youth-funded projects. The workshop equipped young changemakers with practical tools for preparing strong project proposals and effectively managing initiatives. It served as a platform for experience-sharing, peer learning, and sparking new collaborations among Ukrainian youth.

The opening was organised by the TVORY! network of the Lviv City Council with the support of international partners UNICEF, with financial backing from the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) via state development bank KfW, and the 'EU4Youth IV: Youth Engagement and Empowerment' project, co-funded by the EU and BMZ and implemented by GIZ, with financial support from Kredobank.

(euneighbourseast.eu)

Weather

Wednesday, April 9

Day Rain
High: 17°C

Night T-storm
Low: 5°C

Thursday, April 10

Day Mostly Cloudy
High: 12°C

Night Showers
Low: 4°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.