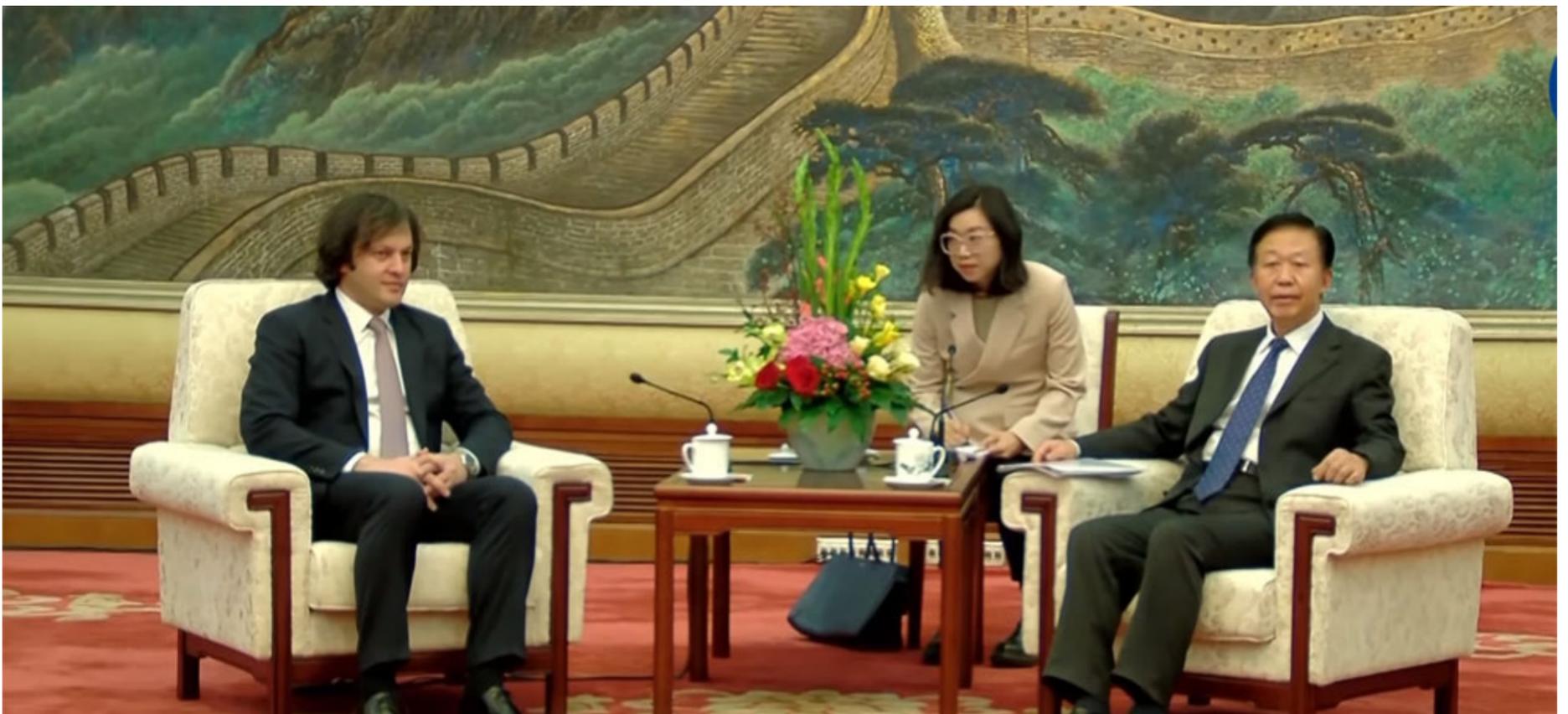


## Kobakhidze Highlights Discussions on Bilateral Cooperation Between China and Georgia



By Liza Mchedlidze

During the official visit to the People's Republic of China, Irakli Kobakhidze, the Chairman of Georgian Dream, along with a delegation from the ruling party, met with Xiao Jie, the Deputy Chairman of the Presidium of the National People's Congress.

According to Kobakhidze, during the meeting, the parties discussed bilateral cooperation be-

tween China and Georgia and expressed their support for Georgia, as well as the processes related to the further deepening of cooperation.

"We discussed bilateral cooperation between China and Georgia. The parliamentary dimension of this cooperation is also very important. Our conversation covered cooperation in the political, economic, and cultural spheres.

All dimensions of the bilateral

relationship are equally important to us. We covered absolutely all directions, and support was expressed towards our country and the processes related to the further deepening of cooperation," Kobakhidze said.

Moreover, as per Kobakhidze, there is a crucial need to further strengthen the relations between authorities and ruling parties.

"Political cooperation is very important. China supports the territorial integrity of Georgia,

our sovereignty, and we also support the principle of a united China. In this regard, the government's statement was released today.

It is crucial to enhance the relations established between authorities and ruling parties. This is the primary objective of the current visit to China," Kobakhidze said.

Furthermore, the chairman of Georgian Dream underscored the significance of further devel-

oping the ongoing economic cooperation between Georgia and China.

"The economic dimension is also particularly important. While we currently maintain a close economic cooperation with China, there is a lot of space to further deepen our collaboration in trade and economic relations. We will, of course, do our best to achieve this," Kobakhidze said.

## Italian Ambassador Massimiliano D'Antuono Presents Credentials to Ilia Darchiashvili



By Liza Mchedlidze

The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Georgia, Ilia Darchiashvili, held an introductory meeting with the Ambassador of the Republic of Italy, Massimiliano D'Antuono, who presented him with copies of credentials.

The minister congratulated the newly appointed Italian diplomat on his ambassadorial role in Georgia, extending best wishes for success in his future endeavors.

Both parties expressed satisfaction with the close and friendly ties, as well as the fruitful cooperation between Georgia and Italy, founded on shared European values and interests.

According to a press release, the Minister of Foreign Affairs gratefully acknowledged Italy's

unwavering support for Georgia's sovereignty and territorial integrity. Additionally, he emphasized the importance of Italy's backing for Georgia's EU candidate status.

During the meeting, particular emphasis was placed on Georgia's accession to the European Union. Ilia Darchiashvili provided the Italian diplomat with a detailed overview of Georgia's progress in this direction and outlined the next steps. He expressed optimism that Italy, being one of the founding countries of the European Union, will persist in actively supporting Georgia on its journey to join the EU.

Furthermore, special attention was given to the significance of the high-level dialogue estab-

CONTINUED ON Page 2

Exchange Rates: US Dollar - 2.6573; Euro - 2.8917; GBP - 3.3559; 100 Russian Ruble - 3.0264; Swiss Franc - 3.0870

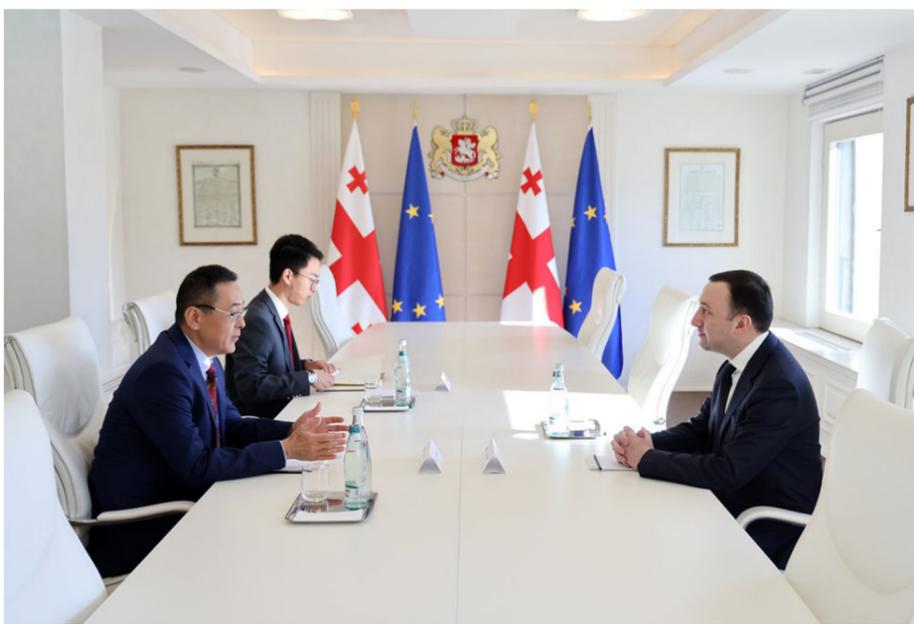
# Italian Ambassador Massimiliano D'Antuono Presents Credentials to Ilia Darchiashvili

**CONTINUED FROM Page 1** also addressed the increasing trend in trade and economic relations between the two countries, emphasizing the necessity to fully harness the existing potential. Massimiliano D'Antuono confirmed Italy's unwavering support for Georgia's sovereignty, territorial integrity, and European integration. At the conclusion of the meeting, both parties affirmed their readiness to enhance political, economic, and sectoral cooperation between Georgia and Italy.

## The News in Brief

PREPARED BY MESSENGER STAFF

### Prime Minister Gharibashvili Meets Chinese Ambassador to Georgia Zhou Qian



After the meeting between the Prime Minister of Georgia, Irakli Gharibashvili, and Zhou Qian, the Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Georgia, the government administration disseminated the information. The Prime Minister and the Ambassador engaged in discussions regarding the close and friendly relations between the two countries, which, as indicated by the government, evolved into a strategic partnership last year. They also explored future prospects of cooperation.

"The parties once again highly evaluated the meeting between the Prime Minister of Georgia and the President of the People's Republic of China, Xi Jinping, during the PM's visit to Beijing last year and its significance in Georgia-China re-

lations. They discussed the implementation of the plans defined during the mentioned visit. The ambassador briefed the Prime Minister on the so-called elections held in Taiwan, on which the Prime Minister reiterated the strong support of the Georgian government for the principle of a united China. The parties once again affirmed their support for each other's sovereignty and territorial integrity," the statement reads.

### Mikheil Sarjveladze Meets US Ambassador to Georgia Robin Dunnigan



The Chairman of the Human Rights Protection and Civil Integration Committee, Mikheil Sarjveladze, conducted an introductory meeting with Robin Dunnigan, the Ambassador of the United States of America to Georgia. During the meeting, discussions centered around the positive collaboration between the committee and the embassy, highlighting joint products developed within its framework. Mikheil Sarjveladze provided an overview of recent significant reforms in human rights protection. Additionally, he outlined the committee's priorities and upcoming ac-

tivities planned for the spring session. According to the statement, the conversation focused on Georgia's aspiration

for EU integration. The parties assessed the progress made in this direction and discussed the agenda for implementing the 9 priorities. The chairman of the committee emphasized the current motivation and readiness, taking into account the intensive work on priorities and adhering to the principles of transparency and participation. Dunnigan congratulated the chairman of the committee on Georgia's acceptance of the status of a candidate country for EU membership and conveyed support for the ongoing process of carrying out further reforms.

# EU on Belarusian political prisoner Vadzim Khrasko: 'Regime is fully responsible for the health and safety of prisoners'

The regime in Belarus is "fully responsible for the health and safety of prisoners", Peter Stano, Lead Spokesperson for the External Affairs of the European Union, said on 15 January, reacting to the recent



death of political prisoner Vadzim Khrasko in a Belarusian prison. According to the Belarusian NGO 'Viasna', 50-year-old Vadim Khrasko died on the night of 8-9 January from pneumonia in Vitebsk colony No. 3. Hasko was arrested on April 15, 2023. In August, he was sentenced to three years in prison. "Vadzim Khrasko is yet another political prisoner who died in a penal colony, due to inad-

equately medical care," Peter Stano wrote on X. "The regime is fully responsible for the health and safety of prisoners. The EU demands the immediate and unconditional release of all political prisoners." Vadim Hasko became the fourth Belarusian political prisoner to die behind bars after Vitold Ashurak, Mikalai Klimovich, and Ales Pushkin.

(euneighbourseast.eu)

## Weather

Wednesday, January 17

Day Partly Cloudy  
High: 10°C

Night Partly Cloudy  
Low: 2°C

Thursday, January 18

Day Mostly Cloudy  
High: 8°C

Night Mostly Cloudy  
Low: 2°C

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