

Georgian Authorities Express Concern Over Zurab Adeishvili's Meetings in Berlin and Brussels



BY LIZA MCHEDLIDZE

The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Georgia, Ilia Darchiashvili, met with the Ambassador of the European Union to Georgia, Pawel Herczyński, and the Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to Georgia, Peter Fischer.

As per the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the ambassadors were officially informed about Georgia's concerns regarding the involvement of Zurab Adeishvili, a wanted criminal recognized by Georgian courts, in visits and meetings held in the European

Union and Germany.

"As explained to the ambassadors, Zurab Adeishvili is known to be guilty of high-profile cases. It is a sad fact that a person whose criminal actions were directed against the principles of a democratic, just state participates in official formats in EU countries. This naturally causes fair concern in Georgian society and does not contribute to the effectiveness of efforts directed against anti-Western sentiments.

The hope was expressed at the meeting that the European Union and its member states would respond appropriately to

similar situations in the future. Ambassadors at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs once again confirmed their readiness to closely cooperate on both the active agenda of bilateral relations and the progress in Georgia's further integration into the European Union process," the statement reads.

The Government of Georgia also issued a statement expressing concern over Zurab Adeishvili's participation in visits and meetings in the European Union and Germany as part of the Ukrainian delegation, citing his criminal status and being wanted by Georgian authorities.

"The Government of Georgia expresses concern over the visits and meetings held in the European Union and the Federal Republic of Germany, in which Zurab Adeishvili, an individual recognized as a criminal and wanted by Georgian justice, participated as part of the Ukrainian delegation.

Zurab Adeishvili was one of the architects of the repressive regime that, for years, disregarded the principles of democracy, the rule of law, basic human rights and freedoms, as well as the independence of the judiciary in Georgia. This regime sacrificed the lives, health,

and well-being of many people," the statement reads.

According to the statement, the hosting of Zurab Adeishvili in the European Union and Germany undermines the perception that the European bureaucracy is committed to the idea of a legal state.

The government administration noted that Georgia considers itself a loyal partner and anticipates that in the future, European structures and bureaucracy will demonstrate increased sensitivity and loyalty to the values upon which Europe was founded after the Second World War.

Supreme Court of Georgia Condemns Vetting System, Deeming it a Threat to Judicial Independence

BY LIZA MCHEDLIDZE

The Supreme Court of Georgia issued a statement expressing concern about the extraordinary procedure for checking the integrity of judges, commonly referred to as the vetting system initiative. Vetting is one of the recommendations issued by the European Commission in its enlargement report.

The court considers that the so-called vetting unequivocally, essentially, and fundamentally undermines the independence of the court or individual judge.

"It undermines public confidence in the justice system and aims to consolidate negative public opinion about the need for 'integrity' checks to facilitate political control over the judiciary," the statement reads.

The Supreme Court considers that the stated content and implementation of external pressure on judges, in the absence of factual circumstances, create a reasonable doubt that this is a message addressed to each judge individually - in the context of their refusal to submit to political control, as announced by the

relevant agenda, regarding the distribution/use of emergency inspection mechanisms against them.

The Supreme Court noted that vetting will create a climate of constant tension in the court, which will have a negative impact on the individual performance of each judge.

In addition, according to the statement, the goal of attempting to introduce the initiative is to divert judges' attention away from matters of justice and towards non-legal and political issues.

The Supreme Court pointed out that, according to the legislation in force in Georgia, issues of integrity, competence, and compliance with the high position of each judge are subject to thorough scrutiny.

The Supreme Court also stated that the initiators of vetting target judges of the Supreme Court. However, judges annually fill out declarations, which, according to the statement, provide sufficient information for comprehensive monitoring of their property status. The



Exchange Rates: US Dollar - 2.6573; Euro - 2.9068; GBP - 3.4125; 100 Russian Ruble - 2.9326; Swiss Franc - 3.0300

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court further indicates that this process is complemented by special monitoring of declarations from individual judges selected by the non-governmental sector.

“In the current situation, the so-called ‘vetting’ requirement is a manipulative and insincere expression of concern for the justice system by interested parties.

It is clear that the excessive interest of the mentioned actors and their agenda is aimed at weakening the legitimacy of the judiciary as one of the independent branches of government and moving governance mechanisms outside the courts.

The Supreme Court of Georgia declares with full responsibility that in the Georgian judicial system, neither the integrity

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nor the qualifications of the judges, nor the quality of justice, nor the standard of justification of the decisions, indicate the ex-

istence of a rule of law problem. In contrast, international practice has clearly shown that similar so-called “emergency proce-

dures” not only fail to strengthen the principle of the rule of law but actually undermine it,” the statement reads.

The News in Brief

PREPARED BY MESSENGER STAFF

Prosecutor’s Office of Georgia Seeks Arrest and Extradition of Zurab Adeishvili from Germany and Belgium



The Prosecutor’s Office of Georgia announced that it has appealed to the competent agencies of Germany and Belgium to arrest Zurab Adeishvili and extradite him to Georgia.

As per the Prosecutor’s Office of Georgia, within its jurisdiction, it takes all necessary legal measures to ensure that individuals who have committed crimes in Georgia are brought to justice in Georgia, regardless of their whereabouts.

“In the mentioned case, based

to Georgia,” stated the prosecutor’s office.

Nika Gvaramia and Nika Melia Unite to Form ‘Ahali’ Political Union

Nika Gvaramia and Nika Melia have joined forces and presented a unified political plat-

form. Their political union will be named Ahali, with the election number 4 and the colors green and orange. According to Gvaramia, green symbolizes newness and a fresh start, while orange represents energy, progress, and hope.

Gvaramia emphasized that their party represents change and unity, fighting for a new di-

rection for Georgia. He highlighted their readiness to face challenges and lead the country towards European integration.

Former UNM chairman Nika Melia stated that the negotiations for the union lasted for three months, emphasizing that the decision to unify was made in the interest of tens of thousands of voters.



Visiting Commissioner underlines EU support for Ukraine



EU Trade Commissioner Valdis Dombrovskis on Friday met Ukrainian Prime Minister Denys Shmyhal in Kyiv, discussing a broad range of topics including the next steps of the Ukraine Facility, and the first payment of Euro 4.5 billion, and

EU enlargement. “We had a very fruitful discussion on Ukraine’s economy and next steps for its EU accession. To support Ukraine’s economy during the war, we have proposed to extend autonomous trade measures for Ukrai-

nian imports for another year – until June 2025,” the Commissioner said on X (formerly Twitter).

Speaking at a news conference with Prime Minister Shmyhal, Dombrovskis said: “The Ukraine Facility has now entered into force and it will provide stable and predictable financing for Ukraine for the next four years for the period 2024 to 2027, with a total amount of Euro 50 billion. The European Commission will provide the first payment in the context of the Facility later this month, of Euro 4.5 billion followed by another Euro 1.5 billion in April.”

Regarding Ukraine’s EU accession talks, the Commissioner said, “For next week, we are preparing the draft negotiating frameworks which we will then

provide to the EU Member States so that they can adopt the frameworks once the remaining four reforms for accession are taken by Ukraine. There, we commend Ukraine on the good progress made already.”

The European Commissioner reiterated the EU’s support for Ukraine: “The European Union will continue to support Ukraine for whatever it takes. This commitment is as strong as ever as Ukraine enters the third year of this relentless war. Total EU support to Ukraine since the beginning of the Russian aggression now amounts to more than Euro 88 billion and we are ready to continue to provide more support.”

(euneighbourseast.eu)

Weather

Tuesday, March 12

Day ☀️ Clear
High: 11°C

Night 🌧️ Partly Cloudy
Low: 1°C

Wednesday, March 13

Day 🌧️ Partly Cloudy
High: 14°C

Night 🌧️ Mostly Cloudy
Low: 5°C

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Screening of the documentary film “IN C – Tbilisi”

InForm - Platform for Inclusive Minds under the patronage of the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany in Georgia, presented the documentary movie screening “IN C - Tbilisi” on March 6.

InForm- Platform for Inclusive Minds in collaboration with the outstanding German contemporary dance company “Sasha Waltz & Guests” created the inclusive contemporary dance performance “IN C – Tbilisi”. It is an experimental dance performance bringing together actors with and without disabilities with independent dancers from Georgia and the Sasha Waltz

& Guests company, performing an inclusive version of the "IN C" - a dance piece created by Sasha Waltz. The premiere of the piece took place at the Royal District Theatre in December, 2022

“IN C – Tbilisi” is a documentary movie directed by Mariam Chachia, telling how the inclusive choreographic piece with the same name was created. The movie discusses how the concept of social inclusion can be translated into dance, how the integration of disabled people is one of the crucial aspects of building a democratic society and the role that everyone has in

creating a diverse, equal and inclusive environment.

The screening was opened by the Deputy Ambassador and head of the Culture Department of the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany, Tanja Hutt.

After the screening, the team of the InForm - Platform for Inclusive Minds were talked with the audience about the creation process of the piece, activities of the platform and interconnection between performing arts and social inclusion.

InForm – Platform for Inclusive Minds is a non-profit organization developing

inclusive performing art in Georgia and creating opportunities for integrating people with disabilities and other underrepresented groups into the larger society through contemporary dance and theater. The platform aspires to make the art sector in Georgia accessible, inclusive, and diverse for creatives of all abilities by powerful artistic collaborations, knowledge transfer and by forming a strong and inspiring inclusive artistic community. The Founder and Director of the InForm - Platform for Inclusive Minds is Maka Chkhaidze.







