

## POLITICS

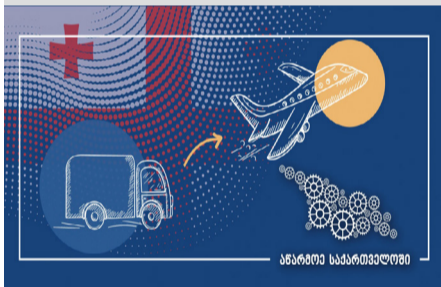
Internal Affairs Minister Gomelauri meets with the French Ambassador



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## ECONOMICS

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## 919 new cases in Georgia, gov't issues recommendations



► The restaurants and entertainment facilities in Georgia's capital Tbilisi, and in the western Imereti region will be banned from operating past 22:00.

BY NATALIA KOCHIASHVILI

Georgia reported a record 919 new cases of COVID-19 on October 15th, bringing the tally of total confirmed cases to 14,440. In the meantime, 208 more patients have recovered, increasing the number of recoveries to 7,367. The number of active cases to mid October stands at 6,934. 4 more COVID-related fatalities were recorded, taking the overall number of Georgia's (excluding occupied territories) COVID-related deaths to 113.

Out of the 919 patients diagnosed with COVID-19, the highest number – 366 – was confirmed in Tbilisi, while the western Adjara region came in second with 286 new cases.

As for the remaining new cases, 104 were diagnosed in Imereti; 21 in Shida Kartli; 44 in Kvemo Kartli; 11 in Mtskheta-Mtianeti; 13 in Guria; 57 in Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti; 13 in Kakheti; 3 in Samtskhe-Javakheti, and 1 in Racha-Lechkhumi.

Due to the growing number of coronavirus cases in the country, the government has decided to tighten restrictive measures in Tbilisi and Imereti. In particular, from 22:00 the work of restaurants and all entertainment establishments is restricted. The same measure has been in place in Adjara.

Also, according to the decision of the Government of Georgia, part of the restrictions have been lifted due to the stabilization of the situation in Adjara, and some will continue. In particular, public transport, including intercity transport,



► According to the PM Gakharia, the coronavirus infection rate will exceed 1,000 in the coming days and the main strategy of the government will be point restrictions.

will be opened in Adjara on October 19th. However, the online learning process remains in force there. The activities of restaurants and entertainment establishments are still limited from 22:00.

After the end of the government session, it became known that the decision to start studying in higher education institutions will not be reconsidered and the students will return to the auditoriums from October 19th. However, higher education institutions are recommended to study remotely, but where it is not possible, studies will continue in auditoriums to conduct laboratory and practical training.

The Prime Minister, Giorgi Gakharia, announced the gradual restoration of air traffic from the end of October. Gakharia said that the frequency of the first stage

flights to Munich and France will increase. From November, flights to Europe will resume from both Tbilisi and Kutaisi airports.

According to the PM, the citizens who enter Georgia will no longer have to go through the mandatory 8-day quarantine, but they will have to remain in self-isolation for 12 days. As Gakharia said after the government session, with this decision the government is trying to bring more dynamics to the economy.

"Once new flights are added, the scheme of their transfer to quarantine areas will change. All citizens returning home and having a PCR test will be able to move to self-isolation for 12 days and will no longer be placed in a quarantine area. And if the citizen does not have a

PCR test, s/he will be able to use the quarantine space normally," said Gakharia.

The head of government called on both public and private institutions to shift employees to work remotely, if possible.

"All the enterprises we support should take this into account, and what happened recently in Poti, when up to 100 infected people were identified in one organization (Adjara Textile) - is wrong. We have to take care of the employees and protect them by all means so that we can protect ourselves," Gakharia said. He also added that the possibility of rescheduling elections are not being discussed and they will not be postponed.

According to the Minister of Health Ekaterine Tikaradze, the country bought 3 times more vaccines in 2020 compared to what was planned to be purchased annually and there's specific strategy for using it in risk groups.

Tikaradze also announced that 4 additional clinics in Tbilisi will be used in the COVID-19 management process, making 1200 inpatient beds available in Georgia's capital.

As of now, according to the minister, there are under 4000 inpatient hospital beds, and under 3900 inpatient hotel beds available nationwide for COVID-19 patients.

"There are no plans to set up field hospitals, the healthcare system is ready today to receive a growing number of infected people and to adequately treat them," said the PM. According to him, there is no deficit in the healthcare system in this regard.



# Internal Affairs Minister Gomelauri meets with the French Ambassador

VAKHTANG GOMELAURI AND FRENCH AMBASSADOR MEET TO DISCUSS STEPS TO FIGHT ORGANIZED CRIME AND ILLEGAL MIGRATION.



► The meeting discussed the ongoing measures taken by the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia regarding the visa-free regime with the European Union.

By ANASTASIA SOKHADZE

The Minister of Internal Affairs, Vakhtang Gomelauri held a meeting with the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the French Republic to Georgia, Diégo Colas.

According to the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the ambassador introduced Gomelauri to the new French Attaché for Internal Security, Herve Jamet, who started working in Georgia in September this year. The meeting was also attended by the French Migration Liaison Officer, Amine Tartag.

Vakhtang Gomelauri congratulated the new French Attaché of



► Diégo Colas introduces to the Minister of Internal Affairs a newly appointed internal security attache of France.

Internal Security on his appointment and wished him success in his future endeavors.

At the meeting, the parties stressed the effective steps taken in the fight against organized crime and illegal migration. In addition, the activities of Georgian police officers sent to the French Republic were especially mentioned. Gomelauri and the Ambassador of France additionally discussed the ongoing measures taken by the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia regarding the visa-free regime with the European Union.

Diégo Colas, Knight of the National Order of Merit, held the post of Deputy Director of Legal Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs before being appointed Ambassador of France to Georgia in 2016.

<b>FRIDAY</b>	<b>OCTOBER 16</b>
<b>Day</b>	Sunny skies High: <b>25°C</b>
<b>Night</b>	Mostly clear Low: <b>12°C</b>
<b>SATURDAY</b>	<b>OCTOBER 17</b>
<b>Day</b>	Mainly sunny High: <b>26°C</b>
<b>Night</b>	mostly clear Low: <b>12°C</b>

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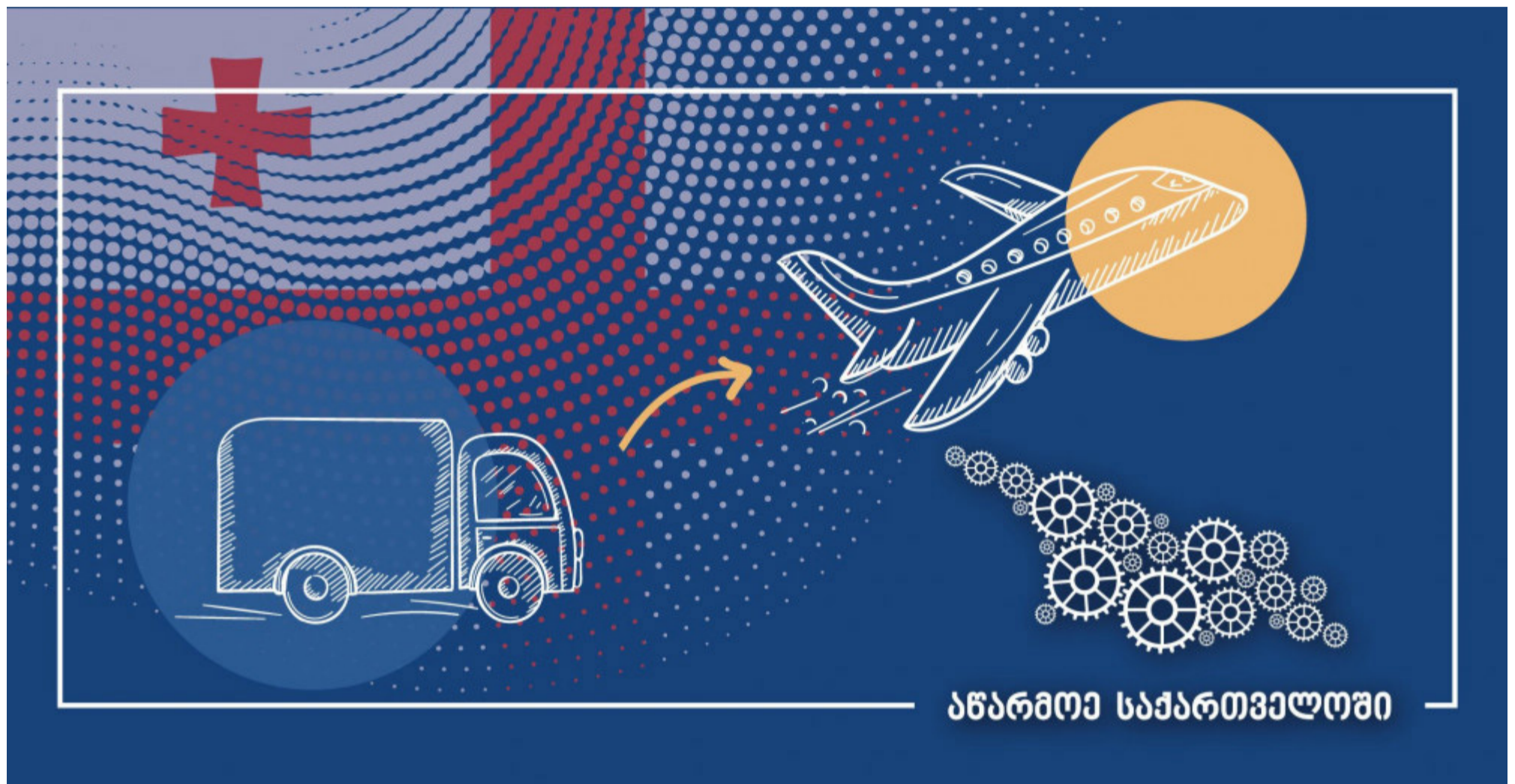
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# Enterprise Georgia wins WTPO Awards 2020



► ITC announced the winners of the WTPO Awards 2020 on 14 October 2020 during an online Awards ceremony.

BY NATALIA KOCHIASHVILI

Enterprise Georgia was named World Trade Promotions (WTPO) Award for Best Export Support Agency at Awards 2020. At the ceremony held on October 14th, the awards were presented to Sweden and Costa Rica along

with Georgia. The main focus of this year's ceremony was on export-oriented development initiatives. Enterprise Georgia was one of 18 finalist agencies from countries such as Austria, the Netherlands, Lithuania, Portugal and Sweden.

International experts in the field of export and trade are in-

involved in the selection process of the finalists and the winning organizations. The event is monitored by leading companies and public institutions.

“International recognition of this level is another success of Georgia, which will definitely have a positive impact on the country's economic progress,”

said Mikheil Khidureli, director of the Enterprise Georgia agency.

The WTPO Awards is a prestigious, transnational competition created in 2004 to reveal the best among trade promotion organizations. This year, 60 countries participated in the event, which is an unprecedentedly

high number throughout history. The WTPO Awards are hosted by the United Nations and the World Trade Organization - International Trade Center. The agency aims to support the internationalization of small and medium-sized businesses and actively cooperates with government agencies on all continents.

## EU experts to discuss sustainable development in Alpine regions in Georgia

On 16 October, the EU will support an online expert mission on sustainable constructions and spatial planning in Alpine regions. The virtual mission will be carried out by two experts from Austria.

The aim is to provide advice to the Georgian Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development on how to integrate local cultural and natural heritage appropriately in Alpine resorts in Georgia.

The EU experts will share best practice from modern architecture and sustainable infrastructure projects in Alpine regions as well as from their professional experience.

The workshop is organised by the Technical Assistance and Information Exchange (TAIEX) instrument of the European Commission in cooperation with the Georgian Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development, and Mountain Resorts Development Company.

