

## Doctor Says Saakashvili's State is Close to Fatal Outcome, Ombudsman Addresses the Strasbourg court

BY THE MESSENGER STAFF

The Council of Physicians created by the Ombudsman has prepared a report on Mikheil Saakashvili.

They visited the ex-president and talked to the doctors of Gldani prison, as well as got acquainted with the infrastructure.

Doctors at the Consilium said they had unanimously agreed that the Gldani 18th Prison Hospital was 'not poorly equipped', but that it was still not ready to treat a patient like Mikheil Saakashvili. According to Dr. Giorgi Grigolia, Mikheil Saakashvili's condition is critical, as he has been on hunger strike for 48 days.

"He has signs of encephalopathy, he has resistant hypokalemia, or a lack of potassium, he has low hemoglobin, which in combination with thalassemia poses a threat. He also mentions gastroenterological bleeding," said Giorgi Grigolia.

He explains that hunger damages not only one of the organs, but also the organ systems, and when the body's resources are depleted, vital functions begin to deteriorate, so at this stage human treatment is difficult and "in many cases it can be fatal."

"Intensive care cannot be performed by a resuscitator or anesthesiologist or therapist alone. Multi-profile specialists are needed in such cases: internal medicine specialists, nephrologists, endocrinologists, gastroenterologists. This clinic does not have such doctors. They can be called on the spot, but they are not available 24 hours a day," says the doctor.



► Dr. Giorgi Grigolia commented on Saakashvili's severe health condition

Giorgi Grigolia, a member of the Council of Physicians created by the Public Defender, says that at this stage of Saakashvili's hunger strike there is very little time left until the fatal state.

The ombudsman formally requested the Strasbourg court to involve a third party in the interim proceedings. According to Nino Lomjaria, if the request is met, they will be able to submit to the European Court of Human Rights the information they have about Mikheil Saakashvili's health condition.

The ombudsman said this was the first time their office had made a similar request to the ECHR. The ruling party has so far refused to transfer Mikheil Saakashvili to a civilian clinic. The Minister of Justice claims that the Strasbourg court did not satisfy the request to transfer Saakashvili to the civil clinic.



## MEDEFI Representatives Visit Georgia to Discuss Business Cooperation

BY KHATIA BZHALAVA

On November 15, a high-level multi-sector business delegation - the French Business Confederation (MEDEFI) visited Georgia, led by the CEO of French engineering company Egis, Laurent Germain.

The visit aimed at identifying new opportunities for business cooperation between France and Georgia, mostly focusing on transportation, engineering, renewable energy, tourism, finance and urban development.

On November 16, the French Ambassador to Georgia H.E. Diego Colas and the Head of the Delegation Laurent Germain held a press meeting addressing the questions of the journalists. It was stressed at the meeting that 29 French companies wish to focus more on investing in Georgia.

According to the ambassador, the point of the business cooperation is to make Georgia closer to Europe. As he noted, when businesses invest in Georgia they



► H.E. Diego Colas and Mr. Laurent Germain



bring a European style of competition and a European approach of treating customers while providing services.

The head of the delegation pointed out three reasons why companies invest in a country, which are microeconomic stability, the country's attractiveness, and having a large pipeline of projects, stressing that Georgia meets all the conditions above.

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EXCHANGE RATES: US DOLLAR - 3.1489 | EURO - 3.5762 | GBP - 4.2359 | 100 RUSSIAN RUBLE - 4.3306 | SWISS FRANC - 3.3928 |

# MEDEFI Representatives Visit Georgia to Discuss Business Cooperation

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According to him, the economic stability and positive forecast of the country is what makes Georgia so attractive to French companies. He also stressed that the tax burden for the companies is lower in Georgia than in many parts of the world and the price competitiveness of the labor force is higher.

It was also stressed at the press conference that one of the reasons why French investors wish to work in Georgia is the fact that the environment in the country is business-friendly, while many countries and governments are less open to businesses.



“it is very easy to create a company in Georgia as it takes a few days when in some other countries it takes months to

open a company” the head of the MEDEFI delegation stressed.

Within the framework of the visit, the delegation met with the



representatives of the government, including the President of Georgia, Prime Minister, Ministers of Economy, Interior,

Agriculture and Finance, as well as the representatives of the National Bank of Georgia and international donors.

## First venture investment fund based in Georgia to invest \$50 million in Georgian technology and innovation startups

BY NATALIA KOCHIASHVILI

The Prime Minister of Georgia Irakli Gharibashvili met with Jonathan Tower, Founder and Managing Partner of Venture Investment Fund, Catapult VC. The meeting focused on the \$50 million fund, Catapult Georgia One, which will be the first venture investment fund based in Georgia. It was noted that the fund will invest in Georgian innovative startups and promote their rapid growth in the global market.

The PM stressed that the Venture Investment Fund is another important step towards establishing the country as a regional innovation hub. According to Gharibashvili, the fund will have the full support of the government and the Innovation Agency will be one of its important partners.

Special attention was paid to the success of Georgian startups and it was noted that Georgia has made significant progress in creating startups with global potential.

“We discussed the initiative to create a new investment fund



► The meeting focused on the importance of faster development of innovations in the context of global competition.



► Catapult is a venture capital fund that specializes in investing in technical hubs beyond Silicon Valley. The fund has invested more than \$ 220 million in more than 100 companies over 15 years.

in Georgia. We are big supporters of the Georgian ecosystem,” Jonathan Tower, the founder and managing partner of the venture capital fund, Catapult VC, commented, stressing that now is an ideal time to invest in Georgia.

Director of Startup Grind Tbilisi, Co-Director of US Market Access Center, Minister of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia and her deputy, and the Chairman of the Innovation and Technology Agency were present at the meeting as well.

Later on, Georgia’s Innovation and Technology Agency and Catapult Georgia signed a partnership agreement, according to which Catapult Georgia will invest \$ 50 million in Georgian technology and innovation startups, and the Innovation and Technology Agency will contribute \$ 5 million to the fund to help the country advance in global markets. The presentation of Catapult Ventures, one of the leading Silicon Valley venture funds, was held in Tbilisi.

According to Mr. Tower’s introduction of the fund’s plans, it will help Georgian startups in early stage financing, as well as attract large American investors and enter the international

market. Catapult is a venture capital fund that specializes in investing in emerging technical hubs outside Silicon Valley. They have invested in 100+ companies. The fund’s managing partner, has invested more than \$ 7 billion in returns (Exit), including early investments in Jet.com (acquired by Walmart for \$ 3.5 billion), Dollar Shave Club (acquired by Unilever for \$ 1 billion); At Freshly (bought by Nestle for \$ 1, 5 billion) at IfOnly (acquired by Mastercard), MapR Technologies (acquired by HP) and many more. His other significant investments include Madison Reed, Qumulo, InsideView, Price.com, Zenplace, Kanler, Joy, Manufactured.Net, BillFloat and many other companies that have become market leaders. Catapult Ventures partners in Georgia are Startup Grand Tbilisi and US Market Access Center.

The event was attended by the Minister of Economy and Sustainable Development Natia Turnava, the US Ambassador to Georgia Kelly Degnan, the President of the National Bank Koba Gvenetadze, as well as investors, representatives of business associations and large businesses from Georgia.

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 18

Day Cloudy High: 11°C

Night Clear Low: 1°C

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 19

Day Sunshine High: 12°C

Night Cludy Low: 4°C

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