

Natia Turnava Replaced by Levan Davitashvili as Economy Minister



► Levan Davitashvili is serving as the Vice Prime Minister, which, as PM noted, will be retained.

BY NATALIA KOCHIASHVILI

The Minister of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia, Natia Turnava resigned on February 9. According to the Prime Minister of Georgia Irakli Gharibashvili, Turnava will be replaced by Levan Davitashvili, the Minister of Environment Protection and Agriculture.

The new Minister of Environment and Agriculture will be Otar Shamugia. Turnava said that she would like to change the field but has not yet decided what position she will move to. She also noted that a solid foundation has been created during these years for the country's economy to recover and develop rapidly.

"These three years were not easy. It was very responsible, honorable, and challenging. I want to change the field, to test my strength in another arena. Of course, I remain a loyal member of the team," she said at the briefing, thanking her team and media for always keeping her in the center of attention, thus in good shape.

"Now comes the period of new initiatives, new challenges and I am absolutely sure that Levan Davitashvili, with his dedication to his usual work, his own experience, professionalism, will take everything to a very high level and will be one of the successful economy ministers. I wish him good luck."

Turnava has been the Minister of Economy since April 18, 2019. Prior to that, she held the position of Deputy Minister. As for Levan Davitashvili, he has been the Deputy Minister of Agriculture of Georgia since 2014 and was appointed Minister in 2017.

According to the newly appointed Minister of Economy Levan Davitashvili, it is important for the economy to develop even faster. As Davitashvili stated, one of his tasks as the new Minister of Economy is to create jobs for the citizens.

At the same time, Levan Davitashvili thanked the Prime Minister for the declared confidence, his team from the Ministry of Agriculture and Environment, and his predecessor for her successful work, which coincided with a very difficult time.

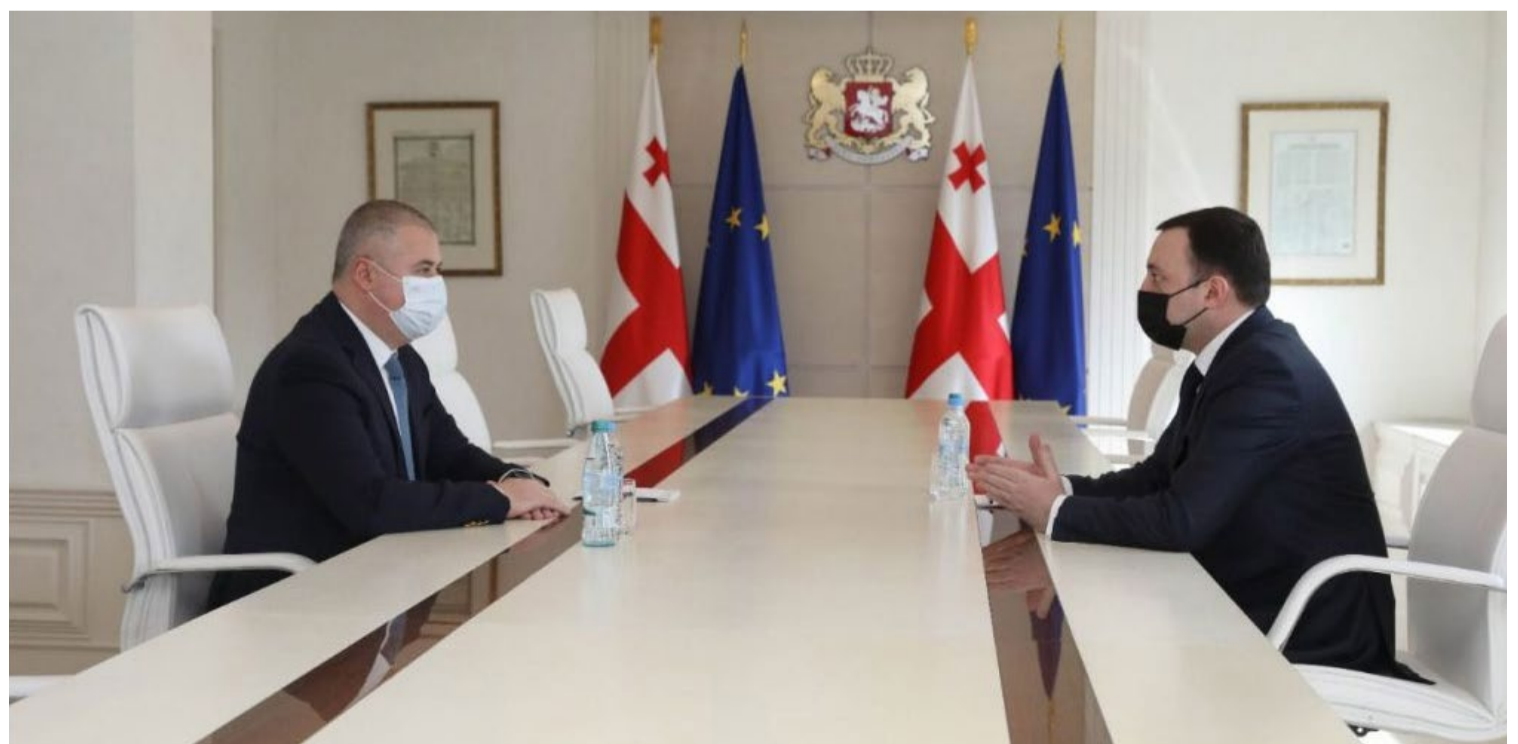
Davitashvili also met with the team of the Ministry of Economy. As he noted,

the activities of the team of the Ministry of Economy will be focused on the proper fulfillment of the main obligations to the population.

"Under the leadership of the PM with the great efforts of the Ministry of Economy, on the one hand, we have been able to restore the economy, but we have big tasks, plans and also an obligation to the population to show rapid economic development and create maximum employment opportunities for citizens directly related to their income - more employment and attracting more investment in the country."

The PM also appointed a new Business Ombudsman, the post will be held by Otar Danelia. Gharibashvili gave specific instructions to the Business Ombudsman, noting the importance of open cooperation with business, fewer barriers, and as little bureaucracy as possible.

Otar Danelia has been the First Deputy Minister of Economy and Sustainable Development, while Nino Kvetenadze, the Deputy Business Ombudsman, has been acting Business Ombudsman of Georgia.



► The Prime Minister of Georgia has appointed Otar Danelia as Business Ombudsman.

EXCHANGE RATES: US DOLLAR - 2.9331 | EURO - 3.3546 | GBP - 3.9840 | 100 RUSSIAN RUBLE - 3.9253 | SWISS FRANC - 3.1750 |

ECHR Starts Considering Individual Complaints Against Russia Regarding the 2008 War



► The Russian Federation must provide the court with answers before May 2, 2022.

BY KHATIA BZHALAVA
As the Young Lawyers' Association notes, the European Court of Human Rights has begun consideration of individual complaints against Russia in connection with the August 2008 war. In particular, ECHR

has addressed Russia with questions regarding a total of 59 registered complaints, 12 of which have been sent by GYLA to represent the interest of 78 people. As GYLA notes, according to the letter of the court, the Russian Federation has to answer

questions before the European Court until May 2, 2022, in particular, whether it violated the right to protection of private and family life, property rights, freedom of movement and prohibition of discrimination. With regard to the above articles, the court will consider

whether the applicants have access to their property located in the occupied territories and whether the Russian Federation would be entitled to a violation of those rights against them. In 2021 the ECHR announced its decision regarding the case Georgia v. Russia, stating Russia violated six articles of the European Convention on Human rights during the 2008 war and carried out ethnic cleansing of Georgians, obliging the country to pay Georgia €10,000,000 for non-pecuniary damage suffered by a group of at least 1,500 Georgians.

It was noted in this decision that the majority of Georgian citizens who were forced out of their homes during the conflict continued to live in Georgian-controlled territory and were not allowed to return to their homes by the de facto authorities of Tskhinvali (so-called South Ossetia) and Abkhazia. As GYLA noted, the court clarified that the de facto authorities of South Ossetia and Abkhazia, as well as the Russian Federation which exercises effective control over these territories, are obliged by the Convention to allow Georgian residents to return home.



► About 26,000 people have been internally displaced as a result of the 2008 war between Russia and Georgia.

Many friends of Georgia in Europe are Asking Where Georgia is Going

BY THE MESSENGER STAFF

EU Ambassador to Georgia Carl Hartzell spoke about the importance of the April 19 agreement. "Today we have gathered to discuss what was done after the April 19 agreement, how it was done. Although time has passed, this is a very important discussion and also very topical. Not only to discuss what has already been done to fulfill the agreement, but also what needs to be done.

This discussion should reflect the current situation and discuss the steps that need to be taken next. Because many friends of Georgia in Europe ask the question, where is Georgia going and what will be Georgia's next step. The April 19 agreement is a guide to EU integration. This is not the only way, but one that is designed to move forward in this direction, and a very legitimate question is heard, if not this way, then which one?



I am pleased to note that progress has been made on the issues covered by the agreement and various commitments have been fulfilled, which has worked well for Georgia. As for the issues that have not been fulfilled, there are various commitments that have been made, we can consider the reform of the judiciary, as well as the moment related to the constitutional changes, and it is very important for a strong democracy to resolve these issues."

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 10

Day ☁️ Cloudy High: 8°C

Night ☁️ Cloudy Low: 2°C

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 11

Day ☀️ Sunny High: 9°C

Night ☁️ Partly Cloudy Low: -1°C

published by **The Messenger**

43, Chovelidze st., Tbilisi, 0108, Georgia
Founded by Prof. **Zaza Gachechiladze**
Tamar Gachechiladze Publisher

Phone: +995 99 56 56 21; +995 77 76 00 00
E-mail: messenger@messenger.com.ge
http://www.messenger.com.ge/

Nino Metreveli Commercial Director
Mariam Mchedlidze Editor-in-Chief
Nino Kavelashvili Design and Layout

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.