

## Georgia Submits First Part of the EU Questionnaire

By NATALIA KOCHIASHVILI

The Prime Minister of Georgia Irakli Gharibashvili delivered the completed first part of the European Commission questionnaire to the EU Ambassador to Georgia H.E. Carl Hartzell.

"I have the honor to provide you with our answers to the European Commission questionnaire in order to prepare a conclusion on Georgia's application for membership in the European Union," Gharibashvili said, marking this day as the paramount stage of Georgia's European integration.

The press service also quoted the EU Ambassador as saying: "I would like to thank you and emphasize that it is a great honor for me to be a part of another historic moment and to stand by your side on the path to this civilized election."

Georgia submitted its application for EU membership on March 3, and on April 11 received a questionnaire from the European Commission on its membership. On April 15, given the high public interest, the government made it public.

The first part of the document consisted of 369 questions, assessing Georgia's readiness to accept candidate status by political and economic criteria.

On April 29, the authorities released the second part of the document. It contains almost 2300 questions, clarifying how well the Georgian legislation is adapted to the European one, how much it can be amended, and the readiness of Georgia to fulfill the obligations imposed by the EU membership. In both parts of the document, the European Commission calls on the authorities to substantiate the answers with specific examples.

The government has until May 13 to answer the second part of the questionnaire. Based on these documents, the Eu-



After receiving the completed questionnaire, opinions on the applications of Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine for membership are expected to be presented to the EU leaders at the EU summit on June 24-25.

ropean Commission will prepare an evaluation report on granting the candidate status to the country, with the relevant decision expected by the end of June.

The President of Georgia Salome Zourabichvili congratulated everyone on the important event on Twitter:

"A big step has been taken today. Geor-

gia joins Ukraine and Moldova and submits an EU membership questionnaire. This is what unites our 3 countries. It is important that our nation is and remains united in this historical process. Congratulations!"

The NGOs called on the government to publish the answers to the question-

naire or present an argument on what basis is the information made confidential under Georgian law. 30 Organizations signed the statement, citing the law 'public information may be kept confidential only if it constitutes a professional, personal, commercial or state secret' and indicating that if the information contains such secrets, relevant parts should be encrypted and the rest should be made public.

CSOs also pointed out that according to a recent survey, 88% of the population is in favor of EU membership and the government must ensure the transparency, openness, and involvement of stakeholders in the process.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Georgia, Ilia Darchiashvili indicated earlier on that that the government was not going to make the answers public. "We did not have an obligation of publicity, but due to high public interest, we made part of the questionnaire public. As for the part of the answers, there are issues, the disclosure of which is not desirable and expedient, therefore, in the part of publicity we will be limited only to the questionnaire."

Georgian government decided to make an expedited application for EU candidate status on March 2 after Ukraine made an expedited application for EU membership on February 28 amid the ongoing war. Moldova also applied for accelerated EU membership on March 3. Both countries have already submitted completed questionnaires.

Georgia, Ukraine, and Moldova are EU member states and participants of the EU's Eastern Partnership Initiative. In May 2021, the three countries formed the 'Associated Trio' to strengthen relations with Brussels.





# Charge d’Affaires of Ukraine Summoned to MFA Over Claims of Ukrainian Intelligence Service



The Georgian Deputy Foreign Minister, Teimuraz Janjalia, and the Charge d’Affaires of Ukraine, Andriy Kasyanov.

For the record, Kyiv has previously accused the Georgian Government of creating smuggling channels for sanctioned products using Georgian territory in April, to which the Georgian authorities responded by urging Ukraine’s military intelligence to provide evidence for the claims.

The Ukrainian diplomat said he was unable to clarify the Ukrainian Intelligence Service’s claims at the given stage and noted a relevant message would be conveyed to Kyiv.

Georgian Deputy Foreign Minister also reiterated Ministry’s ‘unwavering support’ for Ukraine and the Ukrainian people, while Kasyanov expressed his gratitude to Georgia for its resolutions and state-

ments in support of Ukraine since the Russian invasion of the country, as well as for humanitarian assistance provided by Georgia to Ukraine.

Georgian Finance Minister Lasha Khutsishvili said yesterday that the prospect of sanctioned Russian products entering the European Union through Georgia is “inconceivable,” noting that “not only Georgia but also the EU exercises appropriate control”.

He noted that Georgia exchanges and clarifies information with all partners and added that there were no questions from Georgia’s international partners regarding the implementation of sanctions against Russia.

BY KHATIA BZHALAVA

The Georgian Deputy Foreign Minister, Teimuraz Janjalia, has met with the Charge d’Affaires of Ukraine, Andriy Kasyanov, who had been summoned to the Ministry over the information released by the Intelligence Service of the Ukrainian Defence Ministry.

The meeting was held in response to a statement issued on Sunday by the intelligence service of the Ukrainian Defence Ministry, which said Georgia, along with Armenia and Azerbaijan, was in talks with Moscow to re-export Russian products to international markets. According to the statement, “more than 200 companies have

already been established in these countries” for the purpose.

According to the agency, at the meeting, the Deputy Minister, Teimuraz Janjalia, expressed the Georgian side’s dissatisfaction with similar allegations, highlighting that “such unverified information damages partner relations between the two countries.”

The Charge d’Affaires was asked to timely provide factual evidence of the information issued by the Intelligence Service of the Ukrainian Defence Ministry. The Georgian foreign office said the request had been made ‘especially considering’ Ukrainian authorities had also failed to present evidence of a similar “previous allegation”.



According to Georgian Finance Minister Lasha Khutsishvili, Georgia can only be a transit country for non-sanctioned goods.

# Khoshtaria Expresses Full Support for Saakashvili

BY THE MESSENGER STAFF

Dr. Elene Khoshtaria expresses support for Mikheil Saakashvili and his family and says he will take part in all measures to protect the former president’s rights.

“Mikheil Saakashvili’s issue is not just a matter of his family or his party. I am not a member of his party, I will not talk about our different relations, but I, as a citizen of Georgia who watches



Putin’s attack and aggression on free Ukraine, remember the attack of this great evil Georgia during Mikheil Saakashvili’s presidency.

Inaction and silence I really can not. Therefore, I express my full support to his family, and his party in this matter, and I am ready to get involved in all the protests. Of

course, I can not allow myself to be inactive.

Once I took a very radical step because of her health condition, it was not emotional, or situational, it was a necessity to uphold the principle that our country needs and humanity in general needs in the first place.

“Therefore, I am not going to remain silent or stop and get involved in absolutely every action to protect his rights,” Khoshtaria said.

Yesterday, Mikheil Saakashvili’s family members announced large-scale rallies. Saakashvili’s trial was postponed due to his health condition.

On April 27, a council of doc-

tors set up by the ombudsman prepared another report on Mikheil Saakashvili’s health. According to the report, Mikheil Saakashvili has a protein hunger. According to the doctor, Saakashvili consumes about 1/4 of his daily calories, and his body ‘slows down’.

Doctors explain that the proteins that are not supplied to him receive these proteins through muscle breakdown, hence muscle mass is drastically reduced at this time. According to them, it may be caused by resistant post-traumatic stress disorder and depression, which eventually leads to anorexia or loss of appetite.

## Weather

Tuesday, May 3

Day Partly Cloudy  
High: 22°C  
Night Rain  
Low: 12°C

Wednesday, May 4

Day Rain  
High: 18°C  
Night Rain  
Low: 13°C

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On May 2, 2022 within the framework of the official visit of the President of Czech Senate Mr. Milos Vystrcil to Georgia, the CzechTrade agency opened its office in Tbilisi. The inauguration ceremony was held at the Embassy of Czechia in Tbilisi. CzechTrade is the national organisation for export support established by the Ministry of Industry and Trade with the objective of developing international trade and mutual cooperation between Czech and foreign entities. It operates offices in 57 countries through the shared CzechTrade and CzechInvest network. With more than twenty years of experience, the agency has become an expert in supporting Czech exporters, and

their long-term partner on their path to export success. The agency has the vision to be the first choice of Czech companies, especially small and medium-sized ones, in a partnership aimed at the support of internationalisation of their business activities. CzechTrade focuses on the establishment of mutually beneficial relations with foreign partners. The opening of the CzechTrade office follows the establishment of other Czech governmental agencies offices in Tbilisi, the cultural institute Czech Center Tbilisi last year and Czech Development Agency representation earlier this year.



Ms. Jana Gasparikova, Deputy Head of Mission



Mr. Petr Tresnak, Deputy Minister of Industry and Trade of the Czech Republic; Czech Trade;



Mr. Radomil Dolezal, Director General of



H.E. Milos Vystrcil, President of the Senate of the Parliament of the Czech Republic;



H.E. Petr Mikyska, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Czech Republic;



From the left: Stepan Jilek, Director of Czech Trade Georgia; Ms. Jana Gasparikova; H.E. Petr Mikyska; H.E. Milos Vystrcil; Mr. Radomil Dolezal; Mr. Petr Tresnak.









