

The issue of Saakashvili had a toxic effect on the resolution, says Archil Talakvadze

By Liza Mchedlidze

The vice-speaker of the parliament, Archil Talakvadze, about the resolution adopted by the European Council, in which the Russian regime is recognized as a terrorist state said that they supported the original version of the resolution at the session, which was about supporting Ukraine.

According to him, the issue of Saakashvili had a toxic effect on the resolution, and the amendment directly related to it had twice less supporters than the resolution as a whole.

"The statements of the opposition representatives, who are directly noticed in cooperation with Russia, receive salaries from Russian organizations, are busy with Russian interests in Georgia and do this behind the veil of the West, are not serious. They did not even participate in the session and do not know how this resolution was actually discussed.

As for the statements of the "United National Movement", what we heard does not correspond to reality, it is incorrect information. In fact, the members of the Georgian delegation, the political team of "Georgian Dream" on the political committee, where this resolution was initiated and discussed, supported the original version of the resolution, I personally attended the meeting of the committee, where I stated my position during the voting, that is, Georgia and the Georgian government team voted for the resolution in support of Ukraine at the meeting of the political committee.



What happened next was damaging and it was done by the "United National Movement" and several MPs related to Saakashvili. They initiated a Saakashvili-related amendment to this resolution, which was supported by only 55 of the 600 MPs, the issue having twice as much support at the time as the resolution, to say nothing of the total number.

From this it can be seen that the issue of Saakashvili had a toxic effect on the resolution, and I am sure that many of them, even the Ukrainian MPs, were dissatisfied with the initiation of this change, it was done by the "National Movement" and several MPs connected with it," Talakvadze said.

To the question, if "Georgian Dream" supported the resolution

at the meeting of the committee, why did it not use the opportunity to express its support at the session of the Assembly without the clause related to Saakashvili, Talakvadze answered: "I am telling you and please pass this on and tell the public that the original version of the resolution, which was about supporting Ukraine, was supported by us at the meeting of the political com-

mittee."

According to him, he supports Ukraine today as well.

"To this day, I acknowledge Ukraine's territorial integrity, sovereignty and right to have a peaceful future and to make its own decisions about its future, we support it, and we have confirmed this many times by supporting much more weighty resolutions," said Talakvadze.



President Zourabichvili meets with President of Moldova Maia Sandu

By Liza Mchedlidze

President of the Republic of Moldova, Maia Sandu, at a joint briefing after the meeting with the President of Georgia Salome Zourabichvili said "it is the duty of us, Georgians and Moldovans, to be able to fulfill our European dream".

"It is important for us, Georgians and Moldovans, to do everything - it is our duty, Georgians and Moldovans, to be able to fulfill our European dream, to fulfill the European dream of our peoples. Our future lies in the political-economic and value sphere of our countries in Eu-

rope. We will have more opportunities to develop freely within security and prosperity.

Dialogue, mutual cooperation, sharing of values and differences are part of European integration, which will help our countries to strengthen their European course. Also, it will help citizens to live in a free world," said Maia Sandu.

Maia Sandu discussed the importance of peace in Ukraine and said that without peace in Ukraine, there can be no peace in Europe. She added that "we cannot allow aggression and fear to win."

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Exchange Rates: US Dollar - 2.7645; Euro - 2.6946; GBP - 3.1120; 100 Russian Ruble - 4.4583; Swiss Franc - 2.7576

President Zourabichvili meets with President of Moldova Maia Sandu

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As Maia Sandu pointed out, the international community must do everything to stop Russia's aggression and help Ukraine to restore its territorial integrity.

"I hope that your visit will open a new chapter in Georgia-Moldova relations and will be a new impetus for contacts and exchanges in various fields. We

are living in very difficult times, the war has been going on in Ukraine for 8 years now. From the very first day, our countries have condemned the unprovoked attack of Russia against Ukraine, which resulted in thousands of deaths, destroyed dozens of towns and villages, and drove tens of thousands of people from their homes. We, of course, offer support and shelter to Ukrainians who fled the war in

our countries. We call to punish this great criminal, war crime committed by Russia against Ukraine. We certainly recognize that this is an attempt at illegal annexation. Both Moldova and Georgia have unresolved conflicts on their territories.

I would like to use this opportunity to express my country's support for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Georgia within the internationally recognized borders," she said.

Maia Sandu added that Moldova wants to strengthen bilateral cooperation, the cooperation of the intergovernmental commission, whether it is in terms of economy, in terms of

strengthening various contacts or in terms of various human resources. Sandu said that they want to use their experience to fight against propaganda and disinformation.

"It is a great honor for me to be here today in this very difficult time. For the first time after 12 years, the visit of the President of Georgia to Moldova is taking place, and such a visit is obviously of special importance for the relations between our countries, but today, against the background of what is happening in Europe and Ukraine, it is very difficult for us to start talking about our bilateral relations.

"The war in Ukraine today is a great challenge for Europe, but

at the same time it must be said that Europe has seen the true face of Russia today. We have gone through other periods, other wars, other occupations, when our European partners looked at Russia with different eyes and still thought that Russia could be a reliable partner for them, despite its actions. The war in Ukraine changed this vision and everyone saw the real face of Russian aggression, Russia's imperial vision and behavior," said the President of Georgia, Salome Zourabichvili.

Salome Zourabichvili once again condemned the aggression carried out by Russia in Ukraine, the annexation of Ukrainian territories by Russia.

The News in Brief

PREPARED BY MESSENGER STAFF

It is possible that we will have to review the visa regime with Russia, President Zourabichvili says

that the entry of Russian citizens into Georgia is a challenge and it is important for the public to be sure that all control mechanisms are used so that the entry of Russian citizens does not become a threat.

"As for the entry of Russian citizens into Georgia, it is defi-

visa regime, which is quite liberal in today's conditions and which may be less acceptable in the conditions of this aggression, but all this is to be decided by the government and together with the public, by informing it", said Zourabichvili.

The establishment of a visa regime with Russia is not discussed in the parliament, according to Talakvadze

Member of the parliamentary majority Archil Talakvadze said that the establishment of a visa regime with Russia was not discussed in the parliament.

With this, he responded to President Zourabichvili's statement that it is possible for Geor-



Archil Talakvadze said that it is possible for Georgia to review the conditions of the visa regime with Russia.

According to Talakvadze, according to the constitution, the institution of the president is independent and Zourabichvili's statements are not agreed with the government or the parliament.

"The authorities of Georgia and our state consider any person who enters the country on the basis of the legislation and also on the basis of the international conventions and rules of which Georgia is a signatory and oblige. No new decision regarding the visa regime was discussed in the Parliament of Georgia. According to the Constitution, the President of Georgia is an independent institution, and the idea that her statements must be agreed with the government and the parliament is not valid," said Talakvadze.



The President of Georgia, Salome Zourabichvili, stated that it is possible for Georgia to review the terms of the visa regime with Russia, because according to her, the existing visa regime is liberal and may be less acceptable under the conditions of this aggression.

Zourabichvili said at a joint press conference with the President of Moldova, Maia Sandu,

nately a challenge, I wouldn't say a threat, but it is a challenge. Among them are former citizens of Georgia who come from the conditions that exist in Russia today, return, but there are also Russian citizens who come to Georgia for various reasons. The most important thing here is for the public to be sure that all control mechanisms are used so that no danger arises, and for this, I think more communication is needed, informing our society that in all respects, all possible threats and issues are actually considered by the government and all measures are taken. Also, it is not excluded that we will have to revise the

Shining the light on disinformation: book launch in Tbilisi

On 14 October, a presentation was held at the Georgian National Library Hall of the Georgian translation of the book by Peter Pomerantsev, This is not Propaganda: Adventures in the War against Reality.

The presentation was led by Nino Dolidze, Executive Director of the International Society for Fair Elections and Democracy (ISFED), author Peter Pomerantsev and writer Lasha Bugadze.

The book was translated and published by Intellect Publishing House within the framework of the ISFED project 'Strengthening Society Resilience against Disinformation', with financial

support from the EU Delegation to Georgia.

Peter Pomerantsev is a Soviet-born British journalist, au-

thor and TV producer. He is a Senior Research Fellow at the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) and a researcher at Johns Hopkins University. Pomerantsev studies information manipulation and countermeasures in the twenty-first century.

His first book, Nothing is True and Everything is Possible, was published in Georgian in 2017.



Weather

Tuesday, October 18

Day Light Rain High: 19°C

Night Light Rain Low: 12°C

Wednesday, October 19

Day Light Rain High: 17°C

Night Light Rain Low: 11°C

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Final concerts Night Serenades in Tbilisi

By Mariam Chanishvili

This year's "Night Serenades" took place in Batumi and Tbilisi for the fourteenth time since its renewal. The most recent concerts took place in Tbilisi on September 17-18 at V. Sarajishvili Tbilisi State Conservatoire and Conservatoire Grand Hall.

Batumi Ilia Chavchavadze State Drama Theatre hosted the concerts on August 25-26. Within the frames of the festival, the exhibition of Nino Mirianashvili, master of collage technique, was held alongside the festival concerts in Batumi.

The concert on the 17th is dedicated to the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Italy and Georgia, while the concert that will take place on the 18th of September – is dedicated to the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between France and Georgia.

The international festival "Night Serenades", was founded by a world-famous violinist and conductor, Liana Issakadze in 1982, in the most beautiful part of Georgia – Abkhazia. It is the longest-running music festival in Georgia with its rich history. Due to the events of 1991, the festival ceased to exist and only 18 years later, in 2009, in the beautiful Black Sea city of Batumi, it became possible to restore it. Over the years, the great interest in the festival has led to the expansion of its geography, which is why, by the decision of the Tbilisi City Council in 2015, it has been called the "Batumi-Tbilisi International Festival."

The Messenger had a chance to hear



from the festival director - Nina Tsagareli.

- Tell us about the festival and its highlights. How was this year's festival special?

- International Music Festival "Night Serenades" marks its anniversary this year. I would like to congratulate the Festival founder, Mrs. Liana Issakadze, as well as the Festival participants and fandom, on this significant date. I am glad that the four decades-old International Festival "Night Serenades" holds an important place in our country's cultural life. Throughout its years-long existence, the Festival has always been distinguished by its rich and diverse repertoire, as well as by its star-studded participants' composition.

- What were your expectations about this year's festival?

- Four concerts and exhibitions in

Tbilisi and Batumi, as well master classes of the artists for music school students and a workshop for people with disabilities, were held as part of the Festival this year. Another pleasant novelty this year was that the Festival featured a presentation of the book entitled "Music Celebration", which is expected to be held at the Adjara Writers' House, in Batumi. It is aimed at familiarizing the general public with the creative activity of the Festival founder, a renowned violinist and conductor, Liana Issakadze.

- Tell us about the Tbilisi concert program and artists.

- As for the concerts in Tbilisi, on September 17, the Gloria Campaner Trio consisted of three soloists – Italian bandoneonist Mario Stefano Pietrodarchi, Gloria Campaner, and Alessandro Carbonare. It is worth mentioning that Alessandro Carbonare is the principal clarinet of the Orchestra di Santa Cecilia in Rome. Prior to this, for 15 years he lived in Paris where he served as principal clarinet of the Orchestre National de France. Gloria Campaner is a laureate of several international competitions.

On September 18, we invited Andres Gabetta, one of the most talented Baroque violinists of his generation. He performs on a Venetian Petrus Guarnerius violin from 1727.

On a final note, I would like to express gratitude to the Festival Artistic Director, who is a very creative in his work Giorgi Issakadze, the organizing team members, all musicians participating in this year's Festival, as well as the Festival supporters – Tbilisi City Hall, Batumi City Hall, the Ministry of Education,



Culture and Sports of Adjara, the Embassies of Italy and France, the French Institute of Georgia at the Embassy of France, official insurer of the Festival – "ARDI" insurance company, as well as private companies and media partners, with the support and assistance of which we will once again offer the audience a rather diverse and fascinating program.

- Who is your festival's audience in general?

- This festival is for everyone - musicians, music lovers, students, representatives of artistic circles, and the general public of all age. This year, the audience was very emotional and excited about the performance of the musicians, which we are very thankful for.



