

Polish Sejm Vice-speaker denied visit to Saakashvili second time

BY LIZA MCHEDLIDZE

Vice-speaker of Polish Sejm Malgorzata Gosiewska was not allowed in the Viva Med clinic for the second time to visit Mikheil Saakashvili.

According to Gosiewska, she received a general explanation that since she is neither a member of Mikheil Saakashvili's family nor a member of the Parliament of Georgia, she could not visit the former president.

Gosiewska also wanted to visit the general director of the Mtavari channel, Nika Gvaramia, but she was not allowed to visit the 12th institution either.

A few months ago, Gosiewska stated that Prime Minister Gharibashvili gave her the promise to meet with Mikheil Saakashvili in the presence of Polish Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki.

"As you know, I was once again refused a meeting with Mikheil Saakashvili, as well as a meeting with the director of the 'Mtavari' channel, Nika Gvaramia. The fact that the president of the country, the head of one of the big opposition TV channels, is in prison does not speak well of this country.

"I am sorry that I was refused yet another meeting with the prisoners and I was not given the opportunity to see what condi-

tions they are in and what their health is," said Malgorzata Gosiewska.

The Polish vice-chairman also said that during a previous visit, one of the leaders of the ruling party referred to her humiliatingly and said that "everyone knows who this woman is and what she stands for." According to Gosiewska, she and her activities are well known in Georgia, and her government supports opposition parties in countries where democracy is at stake.

"During my previous visit, one of the leaders of the ruling party referred to me with humiliating words and also said that everyone knows who this woman is and what she represents. In doing so, he failed to assess my real position.

Most of the Georgians with whom I have contact know who I am and what I represent, but I will describe my persona in a few words, especially for this gentleman: I am the deputy chairman of the Polish Sejm, who is already in power for the second term.

This party is a political force that is carrying out reforms in Poland, actively helping Ukraine. For many years, we have been supporting opposition movements in countries where democracy is under question," said Malgorzata Gosiewska.



Federal Minister of Justice of Austria thanks Rati Bregadze for sharing valuable experience

BY LIZA MCHEDLIDZE



Federal Minister of Justice of Austria Alma Zadiæ responded to the memorandum signed with the Minister of Justice of Georgia Rati Bregadze on the social network.

"Today, together with my Georgian colleague Rati Bregadze, we signed a memorandum of cooperation. In the future, our countries will cooperate more actively in the field of justice.

One of the goals is to implement EU standards in the field of justice and strengthen the rule of law. We support and help Georgia in the process of integration with the European Union.

"Thank you for sharing your valuable experience," wrote Alma Zadiæ.

The Minister of Justice of Georgia signed a memorandum of cooperation with his Austrian counterpart. This document ensures the strengthening of Georgia-Austria mutual cooperation in the field of justice, rule of law and protection of human rights.

The deepening of partnership relations between the two countries includes the sharing of experience in the direction of mobile and electronic state services, rehabilitation-resocialization of convicts, management of sports, educational and employment programs in the penitentiary institution.

The memorandum also envisages cooperation in the field of convergence with EU legislation, mutual legal assistance in civil, commercial and criminal cases.

The News in Brief

PREPARED BY MESSENGER STAFF

Gharibashvili holds telephone conversation with Pashinyan

According to the Georgian government administration, a telephone conversation



was held between the Prime Minister of Georgia Irakli Gharibashvili and the Prime Minister of Armenia Nikol Pashinyan.

The agency wrote that during their conversation, they discussed various topics of Georgia-Armenia cooperation. In

addition, according to the government, Pashinyan informed Gharibashvili about the results of the meeting held in Sochi on October 31 with the participation of the leaders of Armenia, Azerbaijan and Russia.

“Irakli Gharibashvili and Nikol



Pashinyan also exchanged opinions about close cooperation in the region and current issues,” the government administration noted.

The President of Russia, the President of Azerbaijan, and the Prime Minister of Armenia held talks in Sochi - according

to the Russian government media, at the meeting they discussed the implementation of the agreements of November 9, 2020, January 11, and November 26, 2021, after which they issued a joint statement.

PM Gharibashvili to speak about climate change at the UN conference in Egypt



According to the Georgian government, Prime Minister Irakli Gharibashvili will participate in the 27th UN Climate Change Conference World

Leaders’ Summit, which will be held in the Arab Republic of Egypt, Sharm el-Sheikh.

“The head of the government went to the Arab Republic of Egypt together with the delegation, which includes the Minister of Foreign Affairs Ilia Darchiashvili and the head of the government administration Revaz Javelidze,” the statement reads.

According to their information, the Prime Minister will address the world leaders participating in the summit and “focus on ways to overcome the challenges caused by climate change.

Opinion & Analysis

Geopolitical Vector of Ilham Aliyev’s Visit

BY MALKHAZ MATSABERIDZE

On October 24, President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev visited Georgia. During the meeting of the two countries’ authorities, the subject of discussion was the official transit projects of Baku, the implementation of which is possible only with the participation of Georgia. The realization of these projects will obviously be beneficial for Georgia, however, according to experts, the conversation touched on other issues related to the current geopolitical changes in the region and the world.

The president of Georgia’s neighbor and strategic partner visited Tbilisi after a 7-year break. After 2015, Ilham Aliyev had not been in Georgia. The appearance of the President of

Azerbaijan in Tbilisi was unexpected for the media and, therefore, for the public. He was not preceded by any information that such a visit was planned. It is possible that the government of Georgia heard shortly before the visit that the president of the neighboring country was visiting Georgia.

The President of Georgia, Salome Zourabichvili, was not informed about the visit of the President of Azerbaijan, whose administration specifically announced this after the visit. Aliyev did not even meet the President of Georgia during his stay in Tbilisi. Some explained Zourabichvili’s not knowing about this by the fact that Georgian Dream is opposed to some steps taken by her, others pointed out that Salome Zourabichvili’s presidency is only figurative and it is not her business to make decisions on foreign policy issues. The President of Azerbaijan was hosted by the Prime Minister of Georgia Irakli Gharibashvili.

After Ilkham Aliyev’s visit, Georgian opposition media re-

called the case of Gareji, when before the 2020 elections, it was actively circulated by the government’s initiation, and according to the map brought from Russia, the Gareji monastery complex was entirely within the borders of Georgia. The election campaign was stopped after the elections, and apparently, Aliyev was not even mentioned during his stay in Tbilisi.

Aliyev spoke about the transit projects that Azerbaijan plans to implement in the near future. By 2027, Azerbaijan plans to export almost 20 billion cubic meters of natural gas to Europe, and the transit route passes through Georgia. The corresponding memorandum was signed in July during the visit of the President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen to Baku. Getting rid of dependence on Russian energy carriers is a vital task for Europe, and from this point of view, Azerbaijan is one of the suppliers of natural gas.

During his visit to Tbilisi, Ilham Aliyev also spoke about the need to launch the Supsa termi-

nal, through which it is possible to bring about 5 million tons of oil to the Black Sea coast, for its further transit by tankers.

Russia’s invasion of Ukraine and the economic sanctions imposed on Russia have increased the importance of Azerbaijani power trains and, in general, the importance of transit routes bypassing Russia for Europe. Such natural routes to the west pass through Georgia. The government of Georgia pursues a policy of non-irritating Russia. During his visit, Ilham Aliyev had to bring some solid security guarantees regarding the implementation of his transit projects. Commentators immediately remembered that Ilham Aliyev met Turkish President Erdogan four days before his visit to Tbilisi and that the gas pipeline coming from Azerbaijan enters Turkey through Georgia. So, Turkey is vitally interested in the transit projects of Azerbaijan.

After Azerbaijan’s victory in the 44-day war in Nagorno-Karabakh in the fall of 2020, Turkey’s influence in the South Caucasus increased dramatically

and Russia’s position weakened. Dissatisfaction with Russia is also growing in Armenia, where they believe that Russia did not fulfill its obligation to protect Armenia during the war with Azerbaijan.

During Aliyev’s visit to Tbilisi, the South Caucasian tripartite format, which envisages the Georgia-Armenia-Azerbaijan dialogue, was mentioned. Obviously, official Tbilisi cannot provide security guarantees to Armenia, but it may be a meeting place for negotiations. As experts point out, Russia’s influence in the South Caucasus is currently greatest in Georgia. The Georgian Dream’s non-provocation policy is supplemented by Russian citizens who came to Georgia from Russia in two waves, and their number is growing rapidly.

According to the information of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia, 112,733 citizens of Russia entered and remain in Georgia in 2022. This is more than 3% of the population of Georgia. The diaspora of Russian citizens that suddenly appeared and settled in the country can be used by Moscow at any time against Georgia.

Weather

Monday, November 7

Day Light Rain High: 10°C

Night Light Rain Low: 6°C

Tuesday, November 8

Day Partly Cloudy High: 10°C

Night Partly Cloudy Low: 4°C

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