

President Zourabichvili speaks at World Forum for Democracy in Strasbourg

BY LIZA MCHEDLIDZE

The President of Georgia delivered a speech at the "World Forum for Democracy" in Strasbourg.

Salome Zourabichvili spoke about the challenges on the road to democracy.

According to her, one of the challenges is polarization, which has invaded every institution.

"We are, I wouldn't say in a gray zone, but we are not in a safe zone either, and at such a moment, polarization becomes a crime against the nation, because it weakens [the country] the most, is the most exploitable by the enemy, while not using a military attack," said Zourabichvili.

According to her, the challenge is the lack of reaction from European partners.

"The third challenge is the lack of reaction from our European partners. Georgia is familiar with this path, on which it is moving forward, starting from the neighborhood policy.

I remember this period, when I came to Georgia as the ambassador of France, and then as the minister of foreign affairs of Georgia. Back then, everyone told me that the neighborhood policy is not for Georgia, that it is too far away and will never happen. Then we saw the neighborhood policy, association, visa liberalization, free trade space - these are very important steps, but there was no reaction from Europe.

Perhaps, the European political community partially re-



sponded, however, Georgia experienced great disappointment in the process of granting candidate status to Ukraine (which was clearly understood by the population) and Moldova.

Despite everything, being dis-

appointed, that is, being left out of the process, is a message to others that there may be a fragile situation that one day they will be able to exploit, thereby compensating for other losses and defects. It is an important issue.

So we experienced, I would say, this existential frustration. We are so European and have been for so long that at some point we have to join this European family. I think we have no time to waste today. Georgia

needs candidacy.

The message has been understood - you are not perfect - and we are not perfect, but today we need a candidacy and we need the next path to be thorough," said Zourabichvili.

Changes in report of European Parliament includes Ivanishvili's influence, Saakashvili's transfer and other cases

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The Foreign Committee of the European Parliament supported the version of the annual report on the implementation of the EU Association Agreement by Georgia with compromise amendments.

The report was supported by 47 out of 55 deputies.

Giuli Alasania, the mother of the former president of Georgia, Mikheil Saakashvili, also attended the meeting of the committee.

In the critical report, along with other changes, an amendment was made, which refers to Mikheil Saakashvili's health condition.

"The health condition of former President Mikheil

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Exchange Rates: US Dollar - 2.7366; Euro - 2.7366; GBP - 3.1413; 100 Russian Ruble - 4.4843; Swiss Franc - 2.7673

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Saakashvili is constantly deteriorating, he is still deprived of proper care, which poses a threat to his life," the amendment reads.

In the document of compromise changes, we also read that the European Parliament calls on the Georgian authorities to

release Mikheil Saakashvili, give him the right to proper treatment abroad, and thus take a step towards reducing polarization.

In addition, the amendments state that "the court's decision to prosecute the leaders of Lelo, Mamuka Khazaradze and Badri Japaridze, and the use of the court verdict to deprive Japaridze

of his parliamentary mandate, is a clear demonstration of politicized justice."

In the compromise amendments adopted in the report, the European Parliament recommends that Georgia "systematically solve the problem of excessive influence of personal interests in various spheres of the country's political, economic and

public life, especially by implementing structural and regulatory reforms of former Prime Minister Bidzina Ivanishvili."

We also read in the report that this is one of the priorities defined by the European Commission, which Georgia must meet in order to receive candidate status.

The European Parliament

calls on the Georgian government to "stop politically motivated criminal cases and review cases against journalists, media owners and their family members." The report mentions the case of the director of "Mtavari Channel" Nika Gvaramia, as well as the cases conducted before the founders of "Formula" and "TV Pirveli" television companies.

The News in Brief

PREPARED BY MESSENGER STAFF

We have one of cleanest energy systems and 85% of it comes from renewable sources, PM Gharibashvili says



Prime Minister of Georgia Irakli Gharibashvili addressed the participants of the 27th UN Climate Change Conference. The video recording was released by the Georgian government

administration.

According to Irakli Gharibashvili, Georgia is considering the issue of the gradual fulfillment of obligations under the Paris Agreement.

"There is no time left for talk, because now we need quick and result-oriented actions. We have developed a very comprehensive

consequences", Gharibashvili noted.

According to Irakli Gharibashvili, Georgia has one of the cleanest energy systems and 85% of it comes from renewable sources.

"We continue to develop and support non-traditional, renewable energy projects such as solar, wind, hydro, geothermal and other sustainable energy sources.

In conclusion, I would like to call and remind our colleague that success cannot be achieved alone. We will be able to achieve results only with joint efforts. Therefore, let's transform together the results of the 27th conference of interested circles and parties into quick actions to save the climate", said Irakli Gharibashvili.

Ombudsman: Gvaramia's case will probably be an obstacle to European integration

The Public Defender of Georgia, Nino Lomjaria, assumes that the protection of the rights of media representatives will be

taken into account during the assessment of Georgia for EU status, and Nika Gvaramia's case will be an obstacle among them.

"Protecting the rights of media representatives is one of the main issues that will be paid attention to in the process of

judgment of the appeals court.

The main opinion of the Ombudsman regarding the case of Gvaramia is that the commission of a crime cannot be proven.

"The imprisonment and the case of Nika Gvaramia are special and especially heavy for me. At the moment, we are study-



granting the status, these records can be found in the documents. Of course, the case of Nika Gvaramia will probably be an obstacle on this path," he said.

The public defender will soon publish the assessment of the

ing the decision made against Nika Gvaramia after the appeal, and in the next few days the public defender will have another assessment," he said.

The Public Defender appealed to the President to pardon Gvaramia on June 8.

EU co-hosts Disaster Response Emergency Fund pledging conference

Weather

Wednesday, November 9

Day Partly Cloudy
High: 14°C

Night Partly Cloudy
Low: 6°C

Thursday, November 10

Day Mostly Cloudy
High: 12°C

Night Mostly Cloudy
Low: 7°C



On 4 November, the European Commission co-

chaired the Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) pledg-

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ing conference.

DREF is managed by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and is the fastest, most efficient and transparent way for local humanitarian organisations to obtain global funding directly, both before and immediately after a crisis strikes. The European Commission is currently co-chairing IFRC Donor Advisory Group.

The objective of the conference was to promote the DREF and collect pledges by donors for 2023. The funding will help people in disasters receive urgent assistance by local respond-

ers, including in the Eastern Partnership countries.

"Local actors are key to deliver fast, quality and cost-efficient assistance to people affected by disasters," said European Commissioner for Crisis Management Janez Lenarcic. "For more than 10 years, the EU has been one of the major donors to the DREF, with approximately 7 million allocated in 2021. In 2022, we already assisted 55 DREF operations throughout 2022."

In 2021, EU humanitarian aid funding represented 22% of total DREF contributions.

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