

## Salome Samadashvili says Olivér Várhelyi's statements and unawareness of EU Parliament documents is 'strange'

By Liza Mchedlidze

"More than 90% of citizens will agree with us that the European Commissioner's assessment that 'the economy is booming' is far from reality, and his statement that he does not know the problems described in the documents of the European Parliament was also strange, Lelo MP Salome Samadashvili told reporters.

According to Samadashvili, Olivér Várhelyi's statements do not correspond with the common opinion formed in the European Union, which is formed regarding the current processes in the country, and no one should lie to themselves that the country will get the candidate status without solving the problems.

"I think that more than 90 percent of Georgian citizens, who heard yesterday that the economy is booming, while all surveys show that Georgian citizens are worried about economic problems and unemployment, will agree that this assessment was far from reality. I also found it very strange that he has not heard, for example, about the problems of politicized justice.

He stated that he is not familiar with the problems described in the reports and resolutions of the European Parliament. Therefore, I think that his evaluations yesterday were strange not only to me, but also to many of his colleagues and I can say for sure to the members of the European Parliament.

The assessments expressed yesterday do not correspond with the common opinion that is formed in the country regarding the current processes in the European Union, and we should not lie to ourselves that our country has a chance to get the candidate status without solving the problems issued by the European Parliament, which is supported by the "Georgian Dream" partner party "Socialist Party" and all other major political groups.



I can once again call on the "Georgian Dream" not to sabotage the European future of this country, to carefully study all the problems listed by European colleagues and to start solving them," said Samadashvili.

When asked why she did not meet with Olivér Várhelyi yesterday, Samadashvili answered that it is the policy of "Georgian Dream" to determine which repre-

sentative of the opposition attends the meeting.

"Since I am not officially a member of the "Lelo" political group, because the regulations do not allow me to do so, the office of the chairman determined that I would not have the opportunity to participate in this meeting," she said.

When asked if she feels uncomfortable with her recent statement that the Eu-

ropean Commissioner is nominated by Orbán's party, which is connected to Russian interests, Samadashvili replied that she describes the facts that he represents a political force that is excluded from Europe, therefore, the position of this political force will not be enough. In order for the country to get the status, it is necessary to solve the problems.



## Itsik Moshe thanks Georgian government for prevention of assassination attempt on him

By Liza Mchedlidze

"I am more secure than I was last week. I am very grateful to the Georgian side, because they prevented this terrible terrorist act against me," said the president of the Georgia-Israel Chamber of Commerce, Itsik Moshe, thus helping to prevent his assassination attempt.

According to Itsik Moshe, he was contacted by the President of Israel and asked to take care of himself.

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Exchange Rates: US Dollar - 2.7396; Euro - 2.8563; GBP - 3.2664; 100 Russian Ruble - 4.5232; Swiss Franc - 2.9154

## Itsik Moshe thanks Georgian government for prevention of assassination attempt on him

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“If I had felt all this, of course I would have informed the Georgian

and Israeli parties. Until yesterday, I did not know what was happening around me. It doesn't take much to motivate the enemy, there is a lot of

anti-Semitic action in the world against Israel, Jews in general, actions that are increasing by more than 50% per year. All Jews are at risk abroad. I received the first call from the President of Israel, who said that he is very proud of my work to take care of Israel and to take care of myself,” Itsik Moshe said.

On November 15, the State Security Service released information stating that

an attempt to kill an Israeli citizen planned by a criminal group in Georgia was detected and prevented by the Counterintelligence Department of the State Security Service.

According to their information, persons with dual citizenship of Pakistan and Iran-Georgia have been arrested as a result of the operative search measures and investigative activities.

## The News in Brief

PREPARED BY MESSENGER STAFF

### Parliament adopts draft law ‘on de-oligarchization’ in second hearing



The Parliament of Georgia adopted the bill ‘on de-oligarchization’ in the second hearing.

76 were in favor and 6 against.

The law passed in the second hearing contains an amendment, according to

which the government will establish the register of oligarchs instead of the Parliament.

The vote was preceded by a debate. The parliamentary opposition demanded postponement of the second reading of the law.

They proposed to the management team to send the draft law to the Venice Commission before the second reading, and in this regard they mentioned the recommendation of European Commissioner Olivér Várhelyi.

In this context, the opposition also

pointed out that the draft law on “de-oligarchization” is not accompanied by related legislative acts, and in the absence of a complete legislative package, its adoption is not appropriate.

### Parliament Chairman discusses electoral reform with experts of Venice Commission and the OSCE/ODIHR



Parliament Speaker Shalva Papuashvili discussed the ongoing electoral reform within the framework of EU

recommendations with the experts of the Venice Commission and the OSCE/ODIHR The Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights.

According to the information of the press service of the Parliament, the main initiatives envisaged by the electoral reform and the process of their development were reviewed at the meeting. The Venice Commission and The Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights are working on a joint legal opinion on elec-

toral reform at the request of the Parliament of Georgia.

Preparation of the final document is planned for December 16-17 of this year.

## Ten years of ENPARD in Georgia: more than 2,600 jobs and almost 7,000 people gained new skills

### Weather

Thursday, November 17

Day Mostly Cloudy

High: 17°C

Night Clear

Low: 4°C

Friday, November 18

Day Clear

High: 17°C

Night Partly Cloudy

Low: 6°C



The EU-funded ENPARD programme, with a total bud-

get of Euro234.5 million, has summed up its 10-year work in Georgia.

held by women;

Almost 7,000 men and women in rural areas acquired new

Since 2013, the programme has assisted in aligning the country's institutional, legal and administrative systems with EU standards and introduced European models of rural development.

The final conference in Tbilisi highlighted the following successes of ENPARD's third phase:

More than 2,600 jobs were created or retained in key areas of the programme, two-thirds of which (1,700) were

skills for employment through vocational education;

The Local Action Groups (LAGs) established under ENPARD III have equal numbers of male and female board members, helping to ensure that strategic decisions about local development are made jointly by women and men.

“Rural development is an important cooperation area between the European Union and Georgia. Sustainable, inclusive and green rural economies push people out of poverty, create employment and set out a pathway to sustainable growth benefiting people and the environment,” said Pawel Herczynski, Ambassador of the European Union in Georgia.

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