

## Rishi Sunak expresses UK's continuous support towards Georgia's territorial integrity, writes to PM Gharibashvili

BY LIZA MCHEDLIDZE

In a letter addressed to the Prime Minister of Georgia Irakli Gharibashvili, the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland Rishi Sunak, wrote that the United Kingdom stands by Georgia in the conditions of continuous Russian aggression and supports Georgia's sovereignty and territorial integrity within the internationally recognized borders.

"Mr. Prime Minister! Thank you for your letter of congratulation dated October 26. First of all, I would like to thank you very much for visiting the British Embassy in Tbilisi and expressing your condolences on the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. In these challenging times, as we celebrate the

30th anniversary of the resumption of diplomatic relations, our security and defense partnership has never been more important. I want to assure you that the United Kingdom stands by Georgia in the conditions of continuous Russian aggression.

We firmly support the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Georgia within the internationally recognized borders and continue to call on Russia to withdraw the recognition of independence of the so-called Abkhazia and South Ossetia regions and provide unhindered access to humanitarian aid in the mentioned regions of Georgia.



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I am delighted that in early 2023, the UK will host the next 'Wardrop Strategic Dialogue' event, which will cover the full range of cooperation between our two countries and further strengthen the Strategic Partnership and Cooperation Agreement, which entered into force on 1 January 2021.

I also welcome Georgia's support for Ukraine. This illegal war has starkly reminded us of the threat Russia poses to the fundamental principles of international law, including territorial integrity. The UK is unwavering, as is your support for Ukraine. I look forward to working with you to strengthen and strengthen our partnership for the prosperity, peace, and security of our nations," Rishi Sunak's letter reads.

23 November 2022

THE PRIME MINISTER

Dear Prime Minister,

Thank you for your letter of congratulations dated 26 October.

Firstly, may I say how grateful I was for your visit to the British Embassy in Tbilisi to convey your condolences on the death of Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

At this challenging time and while we celebrate 30 years of renewed diplomatic relations, our close partnership on security and defence has never been more important. Please be assured that the UK stands with Georgia in the face of continued Russian aggression. The UK remains resolute in our support for Georgia's sovereignty and territorial integrity within its internationally recognised borders. We will continue to call on Russia to reverse its recognition of the so-called independence of the Georgian regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia and press for the provision of unhindered access for humanitarian assistance to these regions.

I am pleased that in early 2023 the UK will host the next Wardrop Strategic Dialogue, covering the full range of cooperation between our two countries and further building on the Strategic Partnership and Cooperation Agreement that entered into force on 1 January 2021.

I also welcome the support that Georgia is providing to Ukraine. This illegal war has brutally reminded us of the threat that Russia poses to fundamental principles of international law, including territorial integrity. The UK's support for Ukraine, like our support for Georgia, will not falter.

I look forward to working with you to strengthen our partnership and reinforce the prosperity, peace and security of our peoples.

Yours sincerely,  
Rishi Sunak

His Excellency Mr Irakli Garibashvili

## President Zourabichvili gives a speech on strengthening institutions and depolarization



BY LIZA MCHEDLIDZE

President of Georgia, Salome Zourabichvili, attended an event organized by Eka Beselia's party, where recommendations for justice reform were presented and gave a speech.

In her speech, President Zourabichvili talked about the importance of consensus and depolarization in the country, as well as strong institutions. According to her, Georgia lacks all the following: "We have neither strong institutions, nor respect for institutions, nor justice," said the President.

According to her, "agreement on a justice reform is a way for us to do what we don't know how to do - that is depolarization."

President said in her speech that the most important thing is to reach a consensus, without which everything will be 'in vain'.

"We didn't expect to be nominated, the date was 2024, but nothing was ready for that yet, and it kind of happened, and we should be grateful for that." Even today, the situation in Ukraine is very serious, the bombs do not stop, and also, today the UN Security Council meeting was held, and it can be seen how serious this situation is. I want to honor the 27<sup>th</sup> Georgian who died in Ukraine. They fight on their own free will and are not representatives of the state, but they are representatives of Georgian dignity.

In these 12 recommendations, it is clear that justice and bringing this reform to the end is the main thing because it is the way for us to get out of the Soviet system. There is no other way, from this follows all the rest.

Protecting human rights, protecting business, setting European safety standards, tackling discrimination, determining whether or not hearings are necessary (by the way, I would like to say that I was a little short of your support when I vetoed a very un-European law.

...If there is no minimum consensus, the country cannot develop. Today, there may be polarization in other countries and we look at strong and less strong countries and the same procedures are taking place there, but those countries are beyond that line, they are already in that democratic world, and for them, there is the main defense mechanism, which is the strength of institutions. If there is, barriers have already been created, which protect against any polarization, so that it does not turn into something else, but we do not have, neither strong institutions, respect for institutions, or principles, including justice. Justice is not a foreign fruit to us. It comes from Georgian traditions since time immemorial," Zourabichvili said.



The News in Brief

PREPARED BY MESSENGER STAFF

**EU supports non-recognition of passports issued by Russia in Georgia and Ukraine occupied regions**

The European Parliament supported the decision not to recognize passports issued by Russia in the occupied regions of Georgia and Ukraine.

According to the proposal of the European Parliament, the Commission should consult with the EU member states and create a list of Russian travel documents, namely passports, which will not be recognized. However, those fleeing the war in Ukraine will still be able to enter the EU on humanitarian grounds.

531 members of the European Parliament supported the decision, only 7 were against, and 34 MEPs abstained from voting.

“The European Parliament is ready to do everything to keep up the pressure on Russia through legal and political means to make sure that Putin



Photo: Pixabay

pays a high price for this illegal war and international crimes committed against Ukraine and its people,” said Juan Fernando López Aguilar, MEP of the Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats after the vote.

**De-facto Republic of Abkhazia’s ‘MFA’ calls EU passport decision ‘provocation’**

The European Parliament’s decision to not recognize passports/travel documents issued by the Russian Federation on the occupied territories of Georgia and Ukraine was criticized by the so-called Ministry of Internal Affairs of Abkhazia

They assessed the EU decision as a ‘provocation’ and said that it is an attempt to internationally isolate the so-called Republic of Abkhazia.

“The European Union is becoming a direct accomplice of Georgia’s illegal and inhumane policy of international isolation of the Republic of Abkhazia,” the statement of the de-facto Ministry reads.

**ADB, Bank of Georgia Sign Milestone Risk Sharing Agreement for Supply Chain Financing**

TBLISI, GEORGIA (24 November 2022) — The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Bank of Georgia (BOG) have signed a risk-sharing agreement to promote supply chain finance in Georgia.

Through the agreement, the first of its kind for ADB, the BOG and ADB’s Trade and Supply Chain Finance Program (TSCFP) will share corporate risk for supply chain transactions on a 50%-50% basis. The agreement is the culmination of 2 years of technical assistance provided by TSCFP to BOG.

“This agreement builds on our trade finance partnership with BOG that started in 2011 and will be catalytic in developing supply chain finance in the region,” said TSCFP Head Steven Beck. “By promoting supply chain finance with our partner banks, we help small and me-

dium-sized businesses in developing Asia to participate in global supply chains, spur economic growth, and contribute to job creation.”

Supply chain finance provides working capital to suppliers including small and medium-sized companies (SMEs) by leveraging their relationships with larger corporates. ADB estimates the gap between demand for trade finance and the money available is at least \$2 trillion, with SMEs the worst affected. ADB’s TSCFP provides training and other technical assistance to banks across developing Asia to bring them up to speed on international best practices for the provision of supply chain finance.

“SMEs are especially important for the Bank of Georgia, and this agreement aims to further strengthen them and help them to explore new markets,” said Bank of Georgia’s Head of Small and Medium Business Department Zurab Masurashvili.

Backed by ADB’s AAA credit rating and working with more than 250 partner banks, TSCFP

enables trade and supply chains with loans and guarantees that underpin economic growth and create jobs to improve people’s lives. TSCFP initiatives help make global trade and supply

chains green, resilient, inclusive, transparent, and socially responsible.

ADB is committed to achieving a prosperous, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable Asia and

the Pacific, while sustaining its efforts to eradicate extreme poverty. Established in 1966, it is owned by 68 members—49 from the region.



Promoting supply chain finance will help small and medium-sized businesses in developing Asia to participate in global supply chains, spur economic growth, and contribute to job creation

Weather

**Friday, November 25**  
Day Partly Cloudy  
High: 16°C  
Night Mostly Cloudy  
Low: 8°C

**Saturday, November 26**  
Day Cloudy  
High: 14°C  
Night Light Rain  
Low: 9°C

published by  
**The Messenger**

43, Chovelidze st., Tbilisi, 0108, Georgia  
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