

BY LIZA MCHEDLIDZE

## President Salome Zourabichvili talks polarization in Georgia

The President of Georgia, Salome Zourabichvili, at a pre-New Year's reception for representatives of the diplomatic corps in the Orbeliani Palace talked about the polarization in Georgia and how the issue of Mikheil Saakashvili contributes to it.

"One of the main problems that contributes to polarization is the issue of the former president, Mikheil Saakashvili. It is important for all parties to end speculations, to wait for the decision on December 22."

As the president noted, the country's population wants to end polarization, to see new forces and new perspectives.

"Along with the big challenges for Georgia, which are in front of us and which may define our future, internal challenges seem somehow absurd, irrelevant, and less important. The aspirations of our population are clear. They want to end polarization, to see new forces for the future of Georgia, new numbers, figures, perspectives.

At this stage, it is not the will of the political forces, be it the government or the opposition. They are still clinging to their power and party ambitions. One of the main problems that contribute to this polarization is the issue of the former president. I have said and will say again that it is very important for this country, for its reputation, for its internal stability and for its fu-



ture, that all parties end the speculation.

Let's wait for the decision on December 22, which I am sure

and want to be sure will allow the people of Georgia to get out of this situation. Let everyone concentrate on their duty, man-

aging the country, solving problems, and putting the country on a stable path. Be focused on Europe, peace, and prosperity, and

that's what I want to wish for the country and the whole world by 2023," the president said.

## Georgia, Azerbaijan, Romania and Hungary sign an agreement on green energy

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Prime Minister of Georgia Irakli Gharibashvili signed an agreement in Bucharest between the governments of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Georgia, Romania and Hungary on strategic partnership in the field of green energy development and transmission.

The President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, was present at the signing ceremony along with the leaders.

According to Gharibashvili, Georgia has significant potential in the production of excess energy from renewable sources and it is possible to supply these energy resources to neighboring countries.

The Prime Minister of Georgia said that apart from Europe, Georgia has the necessary infrastructure to supply energy to all its neighbors, "and the project of the Black Sea underwater power

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Exchange Rates: US Dollar - 2.6674; Euro - 2.8341; GBP - 3.2452; 100 Russian Ruble - 4.1225; Swiss Franc - 2.8669

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transmission cable provides an important perspective in this regard.”

“The aforementioned project will promote the development of the renewable energy sector and increase transit and trade oppor-

# Georgia, Azerbaijan, Romania and Hungary sign an agreement on green energy

tunities between the European Union and the South Caucasus region.

As a result of the implementation of this project - by connecting the electric transmission

lines and systems of Georgia, Romania, Azerbaijan and Hungary, Europe will be able to con-

nect not only to Georgia, but also to the entire South Caucasus region,” said Gharibashvili.

## The News in Brief

PREPARED BY MESSENGER STAFF

### 24 MEPs call on the European Commission to include Georgia in the roaming space of the EU



24 MEPs called upon the President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, to introduce Georgia into the roaming space of the European Union.

The letter of the MEPs to the President of the European Commission states that the citizens of Georgia are members of the European family and the European roaming regime will be an important and concrete step on the way to Georgia's European ambitions.

According to MEPs, the existence of a common roaming space with the European Union is one of the priorities for Georgia and it has been working for it

for several years.

The signatory parliamentarians express their hope that the European Commission will support the reduction of roaming tariffs between Georgia and the European Union and eventually create a common space.

but hospitality should not be stupid, and we certainly have our duty to our own population to fully control what is happening.

Yes, let us have open borders, especially

for Georgians of origin, but at the same time, we must realize that we have the right legislation and relevant regulations in order to avoid unwanted intentions in the future,” said the president.



### President Zourabichvili speaks migration flow from Russia

On December 17, at the pre-New Year's reception held for representatives of the diplomatic corps in Orbeliani Palace, President Salome Zourabichvili said that another challenge is mass migration from Russia.

“Also, another challenge is massive migration from Russia. This challenge is, to some extent, an opportunity, because it shows us once again what Georgian tolerance, Georgian hospitality means,

### EU Monitoring Mission in Georgia starts extended mandate at its new headquarters in Tbilisi



On 15 December, on the first day of its extended mandate 2022-2024, the EU Monitoring Mission in Georgia (EUMM) inaugurated its new headquarters in Tbilisi. Earlier, on 25 November, the 27 EU member states extended the mandate of the EU Monitoring Mission (EUMM) in Georgia for another two years, until 14 December 2024.

After 14 years in another building in Krtsanisi, the Mission Headquarters moved to new premises on 64a Iliya Chavchavadze Avenue, where the European Union Delegation to Georgia is also located.

“The move into our new premises, together with the renewal of EUMM's mandate, demonstrates the EU's strong, long-term commitment to peace and stability in Georgia. I can assure you that our monitors will continue to patrol day and night, helping to maintain stability in the region,” said Acting Head of Mission, Tibor Kozma.

(euneighbourseast.eu)

### Weather

Monday, December 19

Day Partly Cloudy  
High: 13°C

Night Showers  
Low: 5°C

Tuesday, December 20

Day Showers  
High: 7°C

Night Showers  
Low: 1°C

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