

Commission for Integration of Georgia into European Union meeting held, chaired by PM Gharibashvili

By LIZA MCHEDLIDZE

The 65th session of the European Union Integration Commission of Georgia was held under the leadership of the Prime Minister of Georgia, Irakli Gharibashvili.

According to the press release of the government administration, at the meeting, the members of the commission summarized the 2 issues included in the agenda: the report of the 2022 national action plan for the integration of Georgia into the European Union and the current situation in terms of the implementation of the 12 recommendations of the European Council.

In addition, important issues of Georgia-EU cooperation were discussed and they also heard information about the fulfillment of the obligations stipulated by the association agreement and the measures to be carried out.

"The commission gave a high evaluation to the process of implementation of the Association Agreement from the side of Georgia, both in the sectoral and legislative direction. The members of the commission also heard information about the progress of the implementation of the agreement on free trade with the European Union and positively evaluated the efforts of Georgia to make full use of the opportunities of the agreement.



At the session, information was presented about the efforts made by the Parliament of Georgia in terms of the implementation of the recommendations of the European Commission, as well as about

the progress of the process of implementation of the recommendations, also about the already implemented and planned changes at the legislative level.

The Prime Minister thanked all the

participating agencies for their active involvement and fruitful work in the process of fulfilling the 12 recommendations of the European Commission," the statement reads.

'Ivanishvili left politics to stay in politics', Giorgi Gakharia says

By LIZA MCHEDLIDZE

The leader of the For Georgia party, and former Prime Minister of Georgia Giorgi Gakharia, discussed Ivanishvili's political exit during a meeting with the party members in Gori and said that Georgia has the opportunity to gain time and years for history and on the other hand, due to 'some incompetent idiots', Georgia is risking losing these 20-30 years.

According to his assessment, the fate of the achievements and mistakes made by Georgia in the last 30 years will be decided in the next 1-2 years.

"You should know one thing - I promise you, today in Georgia there is such a moment when the responsibility of each person will be personalized. Today in Georgia, there is such a period that who stood here, who had what position, who did what, this will not disappear anywhere and responsibility will be personalized. It will be so because history cannot stand an emptiness.

Today there is a geopolitical opportunity for this country to win 20-30 years. Can you imagine what it means for Georgia to win 20-30 years? We all understand very well that if it were not for this unfortunate war, this window of opportunity for Georgia to get closer to the European family so quickly would not have existed. On the one hand, we have the opportunity

to gain time and years for history, on the other hand, due to some incompetent idiots, we have the risk of simply losing these 20-30 years.

Of course, under these conditions, the responsibility of each of us will be personalized. History will evaluate it, we will see it and I am sure of it," said Gakharia.

According to Giorgi Gakharia, Bidzina Ivanishvili "left politics in order to stay in politics".

"When someone comes out and in the conditions where 85-95% of the population have a complete consensus where Georgia should be and where is the place of the future of Georgia, and suddenly there is an opportunity to use this place of yours and gain time for history, gain years and reach this goal faster. After all, someone comes out, an idiot, and says that 'I don't want such a Europe'.

Let's ask 85% of people whether they want such a Europe or not. Let's ask the 85%, do they want such an incompetent, irresponsible government? Responsibilities will be personalized and everyone should take this into account. I tell myself that too.

For example, if Bidzina thinks that he came and said 'I left politics' - he left to stay in politics and what he is doing now with the help of these puppets, that he does not have a responsibility here, or that responsibility will not be personalized, he is very wrong," Gakharia said.



The News in Brief

PREPARED BY MESSENGER STAFF

Minister of Finance Lasha Khutsishvili meets with Ambassador of France to Georgia

ture activities. Khutsishvili thanked the diplomat for financing priority projects for the country and expressed hope that the cooperation will continue actively in the future.

According to the statement, at the meeting held in the Ministry of Finance, the conversation touched on the issues of

development Agency.

At the end of the meeting, the parties confirmed their readiness to further strengthen the existing cooperation between Georgia and France.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Minister of Finance Ekaterine Guntsadze and Director of the South Caucasus Of-

Saakashvili commented on the government's responsibility to carry out medical and psychological treatment to the imprisoned former president of Georgia and said that the US is closely monitoring the whole process:

"We are following the ongoing [court] proceedings with great attention and con-



According to the press release of The Ministry of Finance of Georgia, The Minister of Finance of Georgia, Lasha Khutsishvili, held an introductory meeting with the newly appointed Ambassador of the French Republic to Georgia, Sheraz Gasri.

The minister congratulated the ambassador on starting the diplomatic mission in Georgia and wished her success in fu-

cooperation between France and Georgia and the support for the perspective of Georgia's integration with the European Union.

"Attention was focused on the progress of projects supported by the French government in the country, including highlighting the human capital program, which was launched with the support of the World Bank and the French Devel-



office of the French Development Agency (AFD) Raphael Jozan," the information reads.

'US Ambassador to Georgia says Gov't's obligation is to provide medical and psychological assistance to Mikheil Saakashvili

US Ambassador to Georgia, Kelly Degnan, regarding the trial of Mikheil

cern. It is very important that the trial proceeds smoothly, the government's obligation to provide the necessary medical and psychological assistance is also important since human life is at stake."

Many statements have been made in this regard, including by the public defender, that the government's obligation is to provide proper and necessary medical assistance, and this is exactly what should be determined at the trial, so it should proceed smoothly and there should be no delay," said Kelly Degnan.

Georgia: Euroclub in Kvareli to become regional hub for learning and development in Kakheti

On 16 December, the Euroclub in Kvareli, Georgia, opened its new space with the support of the European Union and the US Embassy.

The EuroClub, a youth organisation founded in Kvareli in 2019 with the support of the European Union's Regional Communication Programme 'EU NEIGHBOURS east', will now become a regional hub for education and development, not only in Kvareli municipality, but also in the Kakheti region. Since 2021, the EuroClub Kvareli unites the EuroClub and American Shelf in one space.



The main mission of EuroClub Kvareli is to promote education and development, raise civic awareness, provide access to non-formal education and spread Western values. The aim of the organisation is to bring the local community together and provide it with a space for open discussions, workshops, film screenings, and seminars.

Over the past three years, EuroClub Kvareli operations have reached more than 2,500 beneficiaries through 150+ activities as part of 25+ projects. These include the Citizen empowerment programme in Kvareli municipality, Activism film club, Open libraries, Book club, and European values and democracy campaign for European Days (EU4U).

(euneighbourseast.eu)

Weather

Monday, December 26

Day ☀️ Clear
High: 9°C

Night 🌙 Clear
Low: 0°C

Tuesday, December 27

Day ☀️ Clear
High: 8°C

Night 🌙 Clear
Low: 0°C

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