

BY LIZA MCHELIDZE

Prime Minister Irakli Gharibashvili delivers annual report for 2022

The Prime Minister of Georgia, Irakli Gharibashvili, summarized the activities of the year 2022 and delivered an annual report. He named territorial unification of the country as the most important task and idea around which the whole nation should unite.

According to the Prime Minister, the opponents are talking about everything except important issues for the country. According to him, Georgia should regain the occupied territories only in a peaceful way and the government has a plan for this.

"You know that the budget of occupied Abkhazia if I'm not mistaken, amounts to just 200 million dollars, and this budget is fully subsidized. I want to say the following is a missed opportunity for our Abkhazian and Ossetian brothers and sisters. In case of unification of our country, we can invest 10 billion dollars in the first three years in Abkhazia, as well as in Samachablo. We can do this very easily; We have understood all this and discussed it at the Economic Council.

Abkhazia can become second Monaco and this is not an exaggeration. It has a huge potential to become the second Monaco and Sukhumi the second Montecarlo. Therefore, of course, our policy is peaceful, we want to heal the wounds received by so many wars. I also want to say that our policy will not be revised, we only want to end this conflict and reconcile in a peaceful way. We all want to live together in a united, strong Georgia," Irakli Gharibashvili said.

During his speech, Gharibashvili also touched upon Georgia's EU candidacy application and, once again, assessed EU refusing candidacy to Georgia as a 'political decision' and for all the progress that has been achieved in the country in the



last 10 years is only thanks to the ruling Georgian Dream party.

"Georgia was given a European perspective that was unimaginable until now. This war accelerated the processes and we understand it well. I would like to reiterate that we expected to receive the candidate status, although we understand that it was only a political decision and it was not a decision based on merit that Georgia was not given the status at this stage.

We believe that our country will receive this status very soon. What allows me to say this is the circumstances and the successful reforms that we have carried out, the 12 recommen-

dations that have been defined by the European Union, have been meticulously carried out with the involvement of our parliament, the government and all of us, and now we are waiting for the decision of our European colleagues.

Here I would like to remind the public that all the good things and all the progress achieved in the last 10 years on the path of our country's European integration are only the merit of our team. "Association agreement, free trade, visa-free regime, the now official application for EU membership and the adopted European perspective - all this is thanks to the Georgian Dream, said the Prime Minister.

The Prime Minister of Georgia also discussed 'unprecedented' challenges in Ukraine and he once again confirmed his support to the Ukrainian people, wishing them peace and a quick end to this war.

As the Prime Minister noted, the ongoing war in Ukraine had a great impact on the European continent itself, as well as on Georgia and global politics as a whole.

"This war had a great impact not only on the European continent itself, but also on our region, our country, and most of all, on global politics. It can be said that the whole world is facing a great challenge that has not been faced since the Second

World War. We are well aware of this, it is the most difficult challenge, so this challenge needs to be managed very wisely and we have structured our policy accordingly.

We have implemented the right policy from the very first days and we are implementing this right policy. I have said many times, and the common spirit of our team members is that our main task should be to protect the national interests of our country. It is with this main motivation, with this idea, that we act and carry out the policy that, first of all, our people and the interests of our people need," Irakli Gharibashvili said.

Pardoning Mikheil Saakashvili would damage President's image, Kobakhidze says



BY LIZA MCHIDLIDZE

The Chairman of the Georgian Dream party Irakli Kobakhidze was asked about former president Mikheil Saakashvili by reporters after the presentation of the government's 2022 report. He refused to discuss Saakashvili's case and assessed the whole situation as a 'simulation', noting that the 'simulation' was planted to create a basis for the President of Georgia, Salome

Zourabichvili to pardon the ex-president.

Irakli Kobakhidze called experts researching Mikheil Saakashvili's health condition as 'questionable' and added that it is 'logical' to involve such experts because the whole thing, according to him, is a lie.

"I don't want to talk about Saakashvili today, it's not something that interests the public. The public is interested in the topics that the Prime Minister spoke about. When dealing with simulation, you sometimes have to involve experts of questionable reputations.

All this is a logical continuation of the simulation. We are

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Exchange Rates: US Dollar - 2.7009; Euro - 2.8800; GBP - 3.2576; 100 Russian Ruble - 3.8486; Swiss Franc - 2.9120

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dealing with a 450-day simulation, and at such a time you have to involve experts not of high reputation, but of questionable reputation. The sole purpose of this simulation is to create a pretext for pardon. As a rule, the simulation should not be the basis of anything," Kobakhidze said.

Pardoning Mikheil Saakashvili would damage President's image, Kobakhidze says

According to Kobakhidze, the decision to pardon Mikheil Saakashvili, who he called 'recidivist', will damage the image of the president. He gave an ex-

ample of Salome Zourabichvili pardoning certain people in the past, which, as Kobakhidze said, has damaged the reputation of the president.

"When it comes to the fact that pardoning a recidivist will be damaging to his image, there is no threat here. You remember that Salome Zourabichvili

pardoned specific people in the past and this damaged her image. In this case, this step will be even more damaging," stated Kobakhidze.

The News in Brief

PREPARED BY MESSENGER STAFF

Mikheil Saakashvili situation is 'staged', says Tbilisi Mayor Kakha Kaladze



Tbilisi Mayor Kakha Kaladze talked about former president Mikheil Saakashvili and said that the Saakashvili issue is 'staged' and that if President Zourabichvili pardons him, it will be very difficult for her personally and for her career.

"There is no critical situation, these are purposefully staged performances, the main creator and participant of which is Mikheil Saakashvili. In general, everything is staged. These are purposeful, staged performances that have their own

actors, are held from different countries, and various contracts and agreements are signed on how to conduct a PR campaign. All criminals who have committed a crime must answer to the law. It is up to the President, but if the President makes

this decision, I am sure it will be very difficult for her personally and for her career in general. This will be the hardest decision, I don't know, perhaps you should ask the president," Kaladze said.

Irakli Gharibashvili discusses Environmental protection and ecotourism in Georgia

The Prime Minister of Georgia, Irakli Gharibashvili, when presenting the 2022 report discussed environmental protec-

tion and ecotourism and said that it remains one of the main priorities of the Georgian government and added that

"As for environmental protection, you know that environmental protection is one of the main priorities of our govern-



governing team has plans for the future in this field:

"Environmental protection is one of the main priorities of our government. A number of things have been done in this direction, and we have concrete plans for what to do in the future," said Irakli Gharibashvili

According to the head of the government, the restoration of ecotourism in the protected areas is going on at a fast pace.

ment, a number of things have been done in this direction, and we have concrete plans for what to do in the future. The restoration of ecotourism in the protected areas is going on at a fast pace. According to the data for 11 months of this year, the number of visitors exceeded 880,000. Therefore, we should direct even more investments in the direction of ecotourism and infrastructural projects," said the Prime Minister.

Innovative Georgian pharma company opens new manufacturing facility with EU support

The Georgian biopharmaceutical company BioChimPharm (BCP) has completed the modernisation of its historic Bacteriophage (Phage) manufacturing factory – a two-year investment project worth 6 million and implemented with support from the EU, the EBRD, FAO and the



Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia.

As a result, BioChimPharm has converted the plant to comply with EU GMP (Good Manufacturing Practice) guidelines, an accepted standard in the European Union. The company also plans to apply for GMP certification in the coming months.

"We hope that this success will be an inspiration for other companies to scale up knowledge-intensive and high value-added production in Georgia," said Ambassador Pawel Herczynski during his visit to the factory.

"The production of phage

preparations and the phage therapy are still a novelty for most of the countries around the world. Millions of people still do not have access to phages, leaving patients vulnerable towards antibiotic-resistant infections," explained Rati Golijashvili, the general manager of BioChimPharm. "With this project, the Company is increasing its production capacity and export area, thus making phages available for millions of patients across the globe."

(euneighbourseast.eu)

Weather

Wednesday, December 28

Day Partly Cloudy
High: 8°C

Night Partly Cloudy
Low: 3°C

Thursday, December 29

Day Partly Cloudy
High: 7°C

Night Partly Cloudy
Low: -1°C

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