

President Zourabichvili's Administration responds to Irakli Kobakhidze in a written statement

BY LIZA MCHEDLIDZE

The President of Georgia Salome Zourabichvili's administration has released a statement regarding internationally imposed sanctions against Russia and Georgia's role in it, after Irakli Kobakhidze, the Chairman of Georgian Dream criticized her for 'lying'.

The Administration's letter serves the purpose to clarify that President Zourabichvili never said that Georgia is 'circumventing the sanctions' and she is always the 'first one' to defend the country's image and interests internationally.

According to the statement, the President of Georgia has not only never accused the country in this matter, but she has always defended and still defends the country's image internationally, both with high-ranking officials and with foreign and local media.

"She has repeatedly stated that according to the information available to her, there is no fact of evasion of sanctions through Georgia, on the contrary, the financial sector of Georgia meticulously fulfills all

international financial sanctions.

In today's situation, when there are accusations against the country, as if the territory of Georgia is being used to evade sanctions, the government needs to take all measures so that the country's reputation is effectively protected," the presidential administration said in a statement.

The statement was followed by Kobakhidze's response. He said that the follow up statement of the president's administration is acceptable, by which the president admitted that there is no circumvention of sanctions through Georgia.

"When there is a demand on the agenda for the authorities to properly respond to the accusations regarding the circumvention of sanctions, it is understood as if the accusations are relevant, which is very wrong. We once again needed to publicize the relevant facts. It's good that the president has made a proper statement on this topic now and admitted that there is no circumvention of sanctions through Georgia. Accordingly, this statement is welcome for us," said Irakli Kobakhidze.



საქართველოს პრეზიდენტის ადმინისტრაცია

უკვე მერამდენე მიზანმიმართული მცდელობაა პრეზიდენტის განცხადებები არასწორად გაავრცელონ და საზოგადოება შეცდომაში შეიყვანონ!

ამჯერად, საქმე ეხება სანქციების გვერდის ავლის თემას - საქართველოს პრეზიდენტს, ქვეყანა არათუ არასოდეს დაუდანაშაულებია ამ საკითხში, არამედ პირველია, ვინც საერთაშორისო მასშტაბით, როგორც უმაღლეს თანამდებობის პირებთან, ასევე, უცხოურ და ადგილობრივ მედიასთან იცავდა და იცავს ქვეყნის იმიჯს; მას არაერთხელ განუცხადებია, რომ მის ხელთ არსებული ინფორმაციით, არ არსებობს საქართველოს გზით სანქციების თავის არიდების ფაქტი, პირიქით, საქართველოს ფინანსური საქტორი გადმიწევნით ასრულებს ყველა საერთაშორისო ფინანსურ სანქციას.

დღევანდელ მოცემულობაში, როცა ქვეყნის მიმართ ისმის ბრალდებები, თითქოსდა საქართველოს ტერიტორია გამოყენებულია სანქციებისგან თავის არიდებისთვის, საჭიროა, ხელისუფლებამ მიიღოს ყველა ზომა, რათა ქვეყნის რეპუტაცია ეფექტიანად იყოს დაცული.

Progress achieved by Georgia on 12 priorities to be evaluated in October 2023, H.E. Pawel Herczynski says

BY LIZA MCHEDLIDZE

The EU Ambassador to Georgia H.E. Pawel Herczynski and the Speaker of the Parliament of Georgia, Shalva Papuashvili, exchanged views on the implementation of 12 recommendations assigned by the European Union for Georgia's candidacy status.

According to Pawel Herczynski, the progress achieved by Georgia on the path of European integration will be evaluated by the European Commission in October of this year, after which, at the end of the year, it will be jointly reviewed by the 27 member states of the European Union.

Herczynski said that the works on 12 priorities which are in convergence with European Standards and principles continue.

"At the moment, work continues on 12 priorities and, more broadly, on convergence with European standards and European principles. For our part, we sincerely hope that this work will bring positive results at the end of the year," said Herczynski.

"As you know, some priorities have been implemented, while others are still being worked on. On other priorities, the Parlia-

ment of Georgia is waiting for an opinion from international standard-setting organizations, such as the Venice Commission and ODIHR, after which the work will continue.

Based on the results, we will evaluate the progress achieved by Georgia in relation to 12 priorities. It will be published by the European Commission in October and then EU member states will review the results, evaluate and decide on next steps later this year.

We have a very busy year ahead of us, and in terms of the implementation of 12 priorities and in general, in terms of Georgia's progress on the path to EU membership, I heartily wish success to Georgia and Georgian politicians," the EU Ambassador said.

When a reporter asked what his response was to the accusations against them that the partners are trying to influence the justice system, Pawel Herczynski responded that the European Union fully respects the independence of the court.

"We fully respect the independence of the court. This is one of the main principles on which the European Union is based," the US ambassador said.



The News in Brief

PREPARED BY MESSENGER STAFF

Minister of Finance says country's tourism and export increased more in relation to worldwide than Russia

Khutsishvili said the country has received many letters of thanks for the measures it takes to ensure that the sanctions are implemented according to the established standard.

He also noted that tourism and export in Georgia increased more in relation to

Revenue in tourism reaches 3.5 billion USD in 2022, National Tourism Agency writes

national travelers visited Georgia, which is +188.5% more than in 2021.

In 2022, 3,652,949 international tourist



The Minister of Finance of Georgia Lasha Khutsishvili talked about the sanctions imposed against Russia at a press conference after the government session.

"There is no reason for anyone to doubt that sanctions are not being enforced in Georgia - we can confidently say that Georgia is one of the leading countries in the direction of international sanctions enforcement," he said.

According to him, the government of Georgia communicates with its partners on a daily basis regarding the enforcement of sanctions.

other countries of the world than in relation to Russia.

"I would like to point out that the growth of tourism and exports in Georgia was much higher without Russia than with Russia. That is, the export to the whole world increased more than it increased with respect to Russia. Also, in relation to the whole world, tourism increased more than it was observed in relation to Russia. Accordingly, in this part, it is better to rely on official statistics and draw conclusions from existing statistics," said the Minister of Finance.



According to Georgia's National Tourism Agency, in 2022 the income from travel exceeded the figure of 2019 and a record figure was recorded - 3,516,634,479 USD.

According to their reports, 5.4 million international travelers visited Georgia in 2022.

"In 2022, compared to 2019, 71.9% of international tourist visits and 58% of international traveler visits were restored.

Last year, a total of 5,426,903 inter-

visits took place in the country, which is +131.6% more than the same period of 2021.

December 2022 was distinguished by the dynamics of tourism recovery. During this period, 564,656 international travelers visited Georgia, which is an 84.6% recovery of the data of 2019, and compared to 2021, the increase is +216.9%, the agency wrote.

Georgia: EU-supported initiative provides first aid training for 32 kindergarten staff in Telavi

The European Union in Georgia, Denmark, UNDP in Georgia and the National Association of Local Authorities of Georgia (NALAG) have helped kindergartens in Telavi municipality of Georgia to organise a first aid training course for their staff.



The initiative covered 32 preschools. Two kindergartens received additional support to equip doctors' offices in their premises.

The importance of these courses is due to the fact that Georgian legislation obliges kindergartens to certify their first aid personnel in order to be allowed to protect children's health and prevent accidents.

This initiative was selected as part of a grant competition funded by the EU and Denmark to improve management, policies and services in municipalities in Georgia.

(euneighbourseast.eu)

Weather

Tuesday, January 24

Day Clear High: 7°C
Night Clear Low: -3°C

Wednesday, January 25

Day Clear High: 6°C
Night Clear Low: -3°C

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43, Chovelidze st., Tbilisi, 0108, Georgia
Founded by Prof. Zaza Gachechiladze
Tamar Gachechiladze Publisher

Mob.: +995 599 565621; +995 577 760000
E-mail: messenger@messenger.com.ge
http://www.messenger.com.ge/

Nino Metreveli Commercial Director

Mariam Mchedlidze Editor-in-Chief

Khatuna Gogichaishvili Layout Designer, Photographer

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