

Draft Laws on 'Transparency of Foreign Influence' Referred to Legal Affairs Committee for Consideration

BY LIZA MCHEDLIDZE

The discussion of the bills "On the transparency of foreign influence" and "On the registration of the foreign agent act" at the joint session of the foreign relations and defense and security committees was completed. The bills were referred to the leading Legal Affairs Committee for consideration.

Before that, the Chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee of the Parliament, Nikoloz Samkharadze, asked the MPs for their support at the meeting of the joint committees, that the draft laws, under certain conditions, would be transferred to the Legal Committee for consideration.

"The Foreign Relations Committee supports the principle of transparency and reporting, which I think the Defense Committee will join us on. Also, we would like to conclude that the terms in the bill need to be reviewed and further discussed. Accordingly, with this condition, we referred the matter to the steering committee. I would like to ask the members of the Foreign Relations Committee for



their support to transfer this issue to the Legal Committee for consideration," said Nikoloz

Samkharadze.

The Legal Affairs Committee is expected to discuss the bills

next week. According to the procedure, draft laws must be passed in the first reading at the

plenary session. Draft laws will be discussed in the format of a plenary session.

Tbilisi Court of Appeal Does not Satisfy Request for Saakashvili's Release or Postponement of Sentence

BY LIZA MCHEDLIDZE

The Tbilisi Court of Appeal did not satisfy the request to release Mikheil Saakashvili or postpone the sentence. Based on this, the decision of the Tbilisi City Court remains unchanged.

Lawyer Shalva Khachapuridze said that the court discussed the petition of the lawyers in absentia, so the lawyers will not attend the process.

According to the Tbilisi Court of Appeal, there was "no legal basis" for granting the petition of the lawyers:

"As a result of the study of the materials/information presented in the case, it was considered that there was no legal basis for satisfying the above-mentioned complaint. Accordingly, the judgment of the Tbilisi City Court of February 6, 2023, remained unchanged by the decision of the Court of Appeal," the statement reads.

Shalva Khachapuridze told reporters that denying Mikheil Saakashvili of release or postponement of the sentence once again proves that former President of Georgia Mikheil Saakashvili's case is political and judges are under 'pressure'.

According to him, they will announce their position on appealing to the European Court later.

On February 6, Tbilisi City Court judge Giorgi Arevadze did not satisfy Mikheil Saakashvili's request for a postponement or release of his sentence.

სახელწოდება	ჩვენს შესახებ	ბანრი	პრესსამსახური	კონტაქტები	ფორები	სტატუსი	რეკლამები
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2023 წლის 02 მარტს თბილისის სააპელაციო სასამართლოში დასრულდა მსჯავრდებულ მიხეილ სააკაშვილისა და მათი ინტერესების დამცველი ადვოკატების სააპელაციო საჩივრის განხილვა, სადაც მსჯავრდებულის ადვოკატები ითხოვდნენ ავადმყოფობის გამო მსჯავრდებულ მიხეილ სააკაშვილის სასჯელისაგან გათავისუფლებას. ალტერნატივის სახით საჩივარში ასევე უთითებდნენ განაჩენის აღსრულების გადავადებას - მის გამოჯანმრთელებამდე ან ჯანმრთელობის მდგომარეობის არსებითად გაუმჯობესებამდე.

სააპელაციო პალატამ, საქართველოს სისხლის სამართლის საპროცესო კოდექსის 291-ე მუხლის დანაწესიდან გამომდინარე, ზეპირი მოსმენის გარეშე განიხილა მსჯავრდებულ მიხეილ სააკაშვილის ინტერესების დამცველი ადვოკატების შალვა ხაჭაპურიძის, ზურაბ ვანიშვილისა და ვალერიან გელბახიანის სააპელაციო საჩივარი და საქმეში წარმოდგენილი მასალების/ინფორმაციის შესწავლის შედეგად მიიჩნია, რომ არ არსებობდა ზემოაღნიშნული საჩივრის დაკმაყოფილების სამართლებრივი საფუძველი. მისაბამისად, სააპელაციო სასამართლოს ავთანაჟიოობით უაპელირებლად დაინარჩუნა თბილისის საქალაქო სასამართლოს 2023 წლის 6

The News in Brief

PREPARED BY MESSENGER STAFF

President Zourabichvili Calls for Banning of Parties in Conflict with Constitution



სალომე ზურაბიშვილი / Salome Zourabichvili 153K followers • 2 following

The President of Georgia, Salome Zourabichvili, called for the banning of the activities of parties that are in conflict with the Constitution. Zourabichvili explained that the supreme law of the country obliges the constitutional bodies to take all measures to ensure

the full integration of Georgia into the European Union. "It is alarming for a member of the parliament to make statements against the constitution. The supreme law of the country obliges the constitutional

bodies to take all measures to ensure the full integration of Georgia into the European Union. Full integration into the European Union and the North Atlantic Organization is the goal declared by the Constitution of Georgia. The activities of all those po-

litical parties that contradict the principles of the Constitution, the path chosen by our country and its population should be declared unconstitutional and banned," the President said. On March 2, Mikheil Kavelashvili, who formally left the 'Georgian Dream', said that their goal is not joining the European Union.

Opposition Parties Start a 'Million Signatures for European Union' Campaign

Parties "Droa", "Strategy Agmashenebeli" and "Girchi - more freedom" will start a campaign "Million signatures for the European Union" and collect signatures. According to them, Georgian people want Euro-Atlantic integration, and as a sign of this, they will present the collected signatures to political circles in the West. "Georgian Dream" violates the Constitution of Georgia, where



the realization of the idea of a strong Georgia is indicated to join the European Union and NATO. Not only do they not fulfill the 12-point reform plan, but they also initiate the Russian bill, which the whole civilized world tells us is against the issue of Georgia's move towards Europe. Therefore, the only way is to start talking directly with our European and American partners with a common mandate, the mandate of the Georgian people. We will start a campaign

to collect a million signatures. These million signatures will arrive in Washington, European capitals, Brussels. With this, we clearly express the opinion of the Georgian people, ours, everyone, that Georgia deserves to be a member of the European Union and NATO, Georgia stands next to the civilized world, and no government, no political group, no matter how tied to Russia, can change our minds about fulfilling this important mission" Giorgi Vashadze said at the briefing.

Energy Community Secretariat to strengthen support for energy reforms in Georgia



In late February the Director of the Energy Community Secretariat, Artur Lorkowski, visited Tbilisi and held meetings with key energy stakeholders and government representatives. The visit focused on the state of energy and climate reforms in Georgia. Speaking about the key priorities of the Energy Commu-

nity, Director Lorkowski stressed the need to reform the energy markets: "Having put the recent market price turbulence behind, Georgia should adhere to its commitments, make use of the EU's best practice and avoid further delays in the market opening. All efforts should be put on the completion of unbundling, the certification of Georgia's electricity and gas transmissions system operators (TSOs) and the launch of a day-ahead, intraday and balancing market to provide the necessary environment for the new investments into renew-

able energy sources". To strengthen support to Georgia, the Secretariat has recruited Salome Janelidze as a

senior energy expert in the Tbilisi office, effective 1 March 2023. The Secretariat will also assist the Ministry in improving

donor coordination of energy and climate assistance in Georgia.

(euneighbourseast.eu)

Weather

Friday, March 3

Day Few Showers High: 9°C

Night Light Rain Low: 5°C

Saturday, March 4

Day Mostly Cloudy High: 13°C

Night Mostly Cloudy Low: 5°C

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