

BY LIZA MCHEDLIDZE

Ombudsman Medical Council Visits Mikheil Saakashvili in Vivamed Clinic

The third president of Georgia Mikheil Saakashvili who is serving a prison sentence and is undergoing treatment at the Vivamed clinic was visited by the medical council of the Ombudsman.

The doctor, neurologist Tengiz Tsuladze, a member of the Council, told reporters that Saakashvili's condition is serious, he has lost weight, standing up and moving carries the risk of falling, and being completely laid down is also dangerous for him.

"He has lost a lot of weight, he weighs 63 kilograms. The state of cachexia and weakness was even more pronounced. His condition is serious, he needs serious interventions to save his life. You can no longer say when and how fast the patient will get sick. It is very difficult to predict," Tsuladze said.

According to Tengiz Tsuladze, the 'Vivamed' clinic is also of the opinion that Saakashvili's treatment should not continue there, although the difference is that they demand to transfer Saakashvili to another Georgian clinic, while Tsuladze himself thinks that the ex-president should be treated abroad.

Anesthesiologist-reanimatologist Giorgi Grigolia said that it is better to continue Mikheil Saakashvili's treatment



where he will be free from the stress of imprisonment.

"As a result of 10 months of treatment, today Saakashvili's condition is much worse than [last] May when he entered this clinic," he said.

The representative of the Public Defender's office, Gvantsa Chkhaidze, said that the doctors would reconcile their positions and prepare a general conclusion.

Regarding the position of 'Vivamed', the clinical director, Zurab Chkhaidze, stated that there was no difference of opinion between the doctors regarding the treatment scheme of Saakashvili and the assessment of his condition. According to Chkhaidze, there is no special change in Mikheil Saakashvili's condition.

"There were no special changes. Neither neurological nor other physiological indicators were changed. There is a temperature reaction periodically. Family members say something different about weight, the reality is different, and talking about this weight is very tiring and boring," stated Chkhaidze.

President Salome Zourabichvili Heavily Criticizes Georgian Dream During Report Speech in Parliament

BY LIZA MCHEDLIDZE

The President of Georgia, Salome Zourabichvili, during her annual report to the Parliament, heavily criticized the ruling party and accused them of planting conspiracy theories of the 'second front' and constantly spreading Anti-EU rhetoric. According to Zourabichvili, Georgian people know very well that the idea of creating the European Union serves peace and not war.

President Zourabichvili said that the European Union in Georgia directly serves the peaceful development of our country.

"If we look at the European recommendations, there is nothing strange to us here, there is no danger of alienation, on the contrary, it is an echo of our traditional values. What divided depolarization and our age-old tolerance? What divided the European request for judicial reform and our tradition of justice based on the monuments of Georgian law and rooted in us? What has divided gender equality and our historically protected legal rights of women (before many other countries) and respect for women? No matter how you try and spread these conspiracy theories of the second front, the Georgian people know very well that the idea of creating the European Union serves peace and not war.

The European Union in Georgia directly serves the peace of our country, in the form of the EU observation mission, and peaceful development. Therefore, no matter how hard you try, these modeled scenarios, which were used by the previous government and suspiciously coincide with the messages of Russia and the separatists, you will not achieve results. It is a fact that Tbilisi and Moscow speak the

same language on the subject of this second front. No matter how hard you try to prove that the European interest and our national interest are in conflict with each other, you cannot escape the reality, because the protection of the territory, de-occupation, strengthening of the defense forces, the security of the population, the development of the economy and education - all this is unthinkable and impossible without close connection and cooperation with our partners.

In her speech, President Zourabichvili said that 'Georgian Dream' has raised questions about Georgia's chosen political path in recent years by neglecting Georgian people's pro-Western aspirations and bringing Russian Duma deputy Sergei Gavrilov in Georgia.

According to the President, today there is a government that has slowly started

to change its face.

"I can't tell you now where you stand and why you left the will of the people and the mandate received from them? Today, you are the government that has slowly started to transform. Instead of strengthening the state institutions as the cornerstone of the country's democracy, the one-party system and its influences are being strengthened. Laws adopted in an accelerated mode (law on wiretapping, abolition of the state inspector's service, changes in the rules of appointing judges and the law on foreign agents) serve not to strengthen the country's democracy or the well-being of citizens, but to consolidate and prolong power. The judicial reform necessary for the future of the country has reached a dead end. Your government has not broken the vicious circle on which the same people have been walking for years, which may

also serve to strengthen the power," the president stated.

President Zourabichvili also said in her speech that people of different opinions and political views started to flow out of the 'Georgian Dream'.

"Any slightly different opinion is no longer heard in your ranks, because it automatically means leaving the mandate. The influence of the party on the government and the parliament began to strengthen, the party turned into a space for making decisions, the chairman of the party announces his position in advance on all political issues, and, most importantly, the process of making decisions became vague, to say nothing of open discussion. You are the government which, with the incomprehensible steps taken in recent years, opposes the foreign goal of the country and the people's mandate.

By bringing in Gavrilov in 2019, you raised doubts and question marks about the country for the first time, however, in reality, the government's foreign course will change in 2021, when Bidzina Ivanishvili, the then chairman of the 'Georgian Dream' party, leaves Georgian politics. Here begins a great deal of confusion as to who is responsible for this new course.

The most visible example of this is insulting the top leader of the European Council and canceling a document drawn up with his participation in such a way that no one considered it necessary to even warn him. In the same year, the EU loan was rejected. You've never stopped the anti-European rhetoric, blaming and insulting our partners. In the end, all this came to the extent that we let the former EU Ambassador out of the country with reprimands and accusations," said Zourabichvili.



The News in Brief

PREPARED BY MESSENGER STAFF

H.E. Pawel Herczynski Hopes Georgia, Together with Ukraine and Moldova Will Soon Join EU



H.E. Pawel Herczynski, the Ambassador of the European Union to Georgia said that he hopes Georgia, together with Ukraine and Moldova, will be able to join the European Union as soon as possible. According to him, the European Union is an excellent peace project, which allows the 27 member states of the European Union to live in peace, to increase

living standards and welfare of citizens. "I sincerely hope that Georgia, together with other candidate countries, especially Ukraine and Moldova, will be able to join the European Union as soon as possible to ensure peace, stability and prosperity in

Georgia. This process is ongoing and we will do our best to support it. However, of course, the choice is for Georgians to make. The European Union has never requested the so-called Opening a second front is simply absurd. We are fully aware of the very difficult geopolitical situation of Georgia, we know the tragic history of Georgia, including several wars, the last of which was

in 2008. We understand that 20 percent of Georgia's territory is not under the control of the Georgian government. At the same time, we, as the European Union, have clearly chosen a side and firmly stand by Ukraine, together with like-minded countries, and Georgia is one of them. We hope that Ukraine will win as soon as possible, which will result in peace not only in Ukraine, but in the entire region," said Herczynski.

President Zourabichvili Says Georgia Has Damaged Diplomatic Relations with EU Partner Countries

The President of Georgia, Salome Zourabichvili, while presenting the annual report to the Parliament spoke about the Ukraine war and Georgia's lack of support. Zourabichvili said that in relation Georgia has not shown diplomacy, nor intelligence, nor historical solidarity suitable for the country. According to her, today Georgia has damaged diplomatic relations with those European countries, which stood out for their support of Georgia.

"We join the UN resolutions, but we avoid or separate ourselves from all other expressions of moral and political solidarity. On February 25, in a completely inappropriate timing, we announced that we do not join the sanctions, while the opposite is true and we can say that we cannot and will not impose our national sanctions, but we will join the international one. No one asked us or Moldova for anything more. At a time when the whole of Europe felt it necessary to separate, we avoided them and did not join the restrictions imposed by the European Union. At that time, the President of Belarus did not take care of us, he did not take care of our territorial integrity, he violated the law of occupation and betrayed the principle of non-recognition. In the last two years, we have been noticeably careful not to irritate Russia, which may be understandable, but it is not



clear why we do not treat our friends and partners with the same politeness and awe. As a result, today we have damaged diplomatic relations, first of all, with those European countries that were traditionally distinguished by our support. Through the rhetoric and actions of these last two years, you have erased and altered the course of your 9-year rule and deviated from the will and mandate of your people, the electorate. As a result of all this, on June 17, 2022, Georgia did not receive the candidate status," stated Zourabichvili.

The Italian Embassy in Tbilisi and the Regional Office of the Italian Trade & Investment Agency (ITA) are pleased to announce the return of the "Italian Design Days" traditional event dedicated to the beauty of Italian design, restoration and architecture, as well as to the rich co-operation with Georgia in such fields. This year's edition focuses on the main theme "Enlightening quality: The energy of design for people and environment". On this occasion, Tbilisi hosted an exceptional 'Ambassador', Architect Michele De Lucchi, author of buildings, which are now iconic parts of the inimitable landscape of the Georgian capital, inspiring architecture enthusiasts from all over the world. Maestro De Lucchi hold a lectio magistralis at the Tbilisi State Academy of Art, revolving around his idea of architecture spanning 360 degrees. Drawing on his experiences in Tbilisi, he

Italian Design Days in Georgia – 2023

led the Georgian public on a journey through past, present and future of the city. The Ambassador of Italy in Georgia H.E. Mr. Enrico Valvo inaugurated, alongside the Minister of Regional Development and Infrastructure of Georgia, H.E. Mr. Irakli Karseladze, and the Rector of the aforementioned Academy, Mr. Karaman Kutateladze, three exhibitions. This was made possible thanks to three key contributors: respectively, the Italian National Council of Architects, Planners, Conservative Landscapers (CNAPPC), the editorial team of the magazine "Domus Georgia" and Milan's European Institute

Michele De Lucchi leads the Georgian public on a journey through past, present and future of Tbilisi, within the "Italian Design Days".

of Design (IED). IED also presented a new edition of the popular creativity competition dedicated to young designers in Georgia, entitled "When Italian Design Meets Georgian Creativity: Quality Matters!". Within such competition, a scholarship, fully covered by IED, for a course in English at the "Aldo Galli" Academy of Fine Arts in Como – as well as a special prize consisting of free access to the IED's online platform "Smart Creativity" – will be awarded, in addition to special gadgets for the

participants, linked to the excellences of Made in Italy. The following day the same Academy hosted a seminar for students and professionals, offered in partnership with the Municipal Development Fund, engaged in important projects to enhance the Georgian tourist and infrastructural potential, in more than one case in collaboration with Italian companies.

Many important players in the field of architecture and design, including representatives of companies, scholars and universities, animated a wide-ranging discussion on the themes of light, its applications in architecture and in the restoration of works of historical-artistic interest.

See photo coverage on pages 3-4



Weather

Monday, April 3

Day Clear High: 21°C

Night Cloudy Low: 8°C

Tuesday, April 4

Day Partly Cloudy High: 21°C

Night Partly Cloudy Low: 9°C

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Italian Design Days in Georgia – 2023



H.E. Mr. Irakli Karseladze, H.E. Mr. Enrico Valvo, Mr. Karaman Kutateladze, Deputy, Mr. Nicola Iorio and Maestro Michele De Lucchi



