

## NGOs Appeal to Ruling Party to not 'Sabotage' Georgia's EU Candidacy Status



By LIZA MCHEDLIDZE

Non-governmental organizations appeal to the authorities and point out that any legislative initiative or action that would oppose the basic values of the European Union would be a sabotage of the status. More than 140 organizations signed the statement.

"Last month, the citizens of Georgia once again proved that we are loyal to European values and we are not going to deviate from the path leading to the European Union. We showed that the Georgian people deserve the status of a candidate by a wide public consolidation around the idea of joining the European Union as a national idea.

According to various reports, the European Commission may recommend granting Georgia the status of a candidate for EU membership in October 2023, if Georgia continues to work on reforms in the next period and does not worsen the situation of human rights and democracy in the country.

The government is fully re-

sponsible for receiving the candidate status. It is necessary for the government to reconsider and strengthen its efforts to achieve the historic opportunity. Any legislative initiative or action that would oppose the fundamental values of the European Union would be sabotage of the status acceptance and an action contrary to Article 78 of the Con-

stitution," the statement reads.

NGOs indicate that the main goal of their activities as civil society organizations will be to make maximum efforts to obtain candidate status. According to them, at the end of the year, the whole society should proudly announce that Georgia is a candidate country for EU membership.

## MFA of North Macedonia Meets with Prime Minister Irakli Gharibashvili



By LIZA MCHEDLIDZE

The Prime Minister of Georgia Irakli Gharibashvili met with the current Chairman of the OSCE, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of North Macedonia, Bujar Osmani.

The main topics discussed at the meeting were current issues of international cooperation with the OSCE chairmanship country and the progress achieved by Georgia on the path of European integration.

At the meeting held in the government administration, readiness to deepen the existing fruitful cooperation between the two countries was expressed. The importance of the visit of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of North Macedonia during the OSCE chairmanship was emphasized.

The conversation touched on the

situation in the occupied territories of Georgia. Irakli Gharibashvili thanked Bujar Osmani for supporting the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Georgia.

The Prime Minister welcomed the important priorities announced by North Macedonia during the OSCE chairmanship.

Georgia's Minister for Reconciliation and Civil Equality, Tea Akhvediani, also held a meeting with Bujar Osmani.

Tea Akhvediani thanked Osmani for his firm support of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Georgia within the internationally recognized borders and emphasized the importance of the role and active involvement of the OSCE in the process of peaceful resolution of the conflict, including through the co-chairmanship of the international negotiations in Geneva.

The parties emphasized the importance of international negotiations in Geneva and the need to make progress on the issues included in the agenda.



### The News in Brief

PREPARED BY MESSENGER STAFF

#### Mikheil Saakashvili's Lawyers Appeal to European Court



The lawyers sent Mikheil Saakashvili's case to the European Court of Human Rights. As lawyer Shota Tutberidze stated, the complaint talks about the violation of the clauses protected by the European Convention on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms.

lished procedure, which means accepting the case for consideration, after which it will be decided whether the state has violated the relevant provisions of the European Convention on Hu-

man Rights and Fundamental Freedoms," Tutberidze said. According to the assessment of the defense side, Saakashvili's state of health provides the basis for the court to establish the violation of a number of articles. The members of Saakashvili's family say that they will not talk about the contents of the case due to their interest in the case.

"I think it would not be appropriate to go into the specific details of the content of the complaint and repeat the government's rhetoric and abuse of the practice of the European Court, so I cannot go into the details," stated Tutberidze.

#### Minister of Culture Thea Tsulukiani Condemns Imposed Sanctions on Four Georgian Judges

The Vice Prime Minister, Minister of Culture, Sports and Youth of Georgia, Thea Tsulukiani, said that US State Department's decision to sanction 4 Georgian judges is incomprehensible to her because according to her, the judiciary of the country is on the right path of development and has great success both in terms of impartiality and independence. Tsulukiani also noted that she considers the US decision on sanctions unacceptable since no evidence has been presented. "As a former Minister of Justice and a lawyer of the European Court of Human Rights,



which means about 20 years of experience, I want to strongly, loudly condemn this decision of our friend, the USA." It was unacceptable, especially since it had, as it turns out, the form of a surprise. Partners, friends probably don't behave like that, although in friendship and partnership, it sometimes happens when there is some misunderstanding. This

friendship and partnership has such great roots and tradition that such misunderstandings cannot diminish it, however, of course, we, who represent the Georgian nation in the government, are obliged to condemn what is an unacceptable act for the history, sovereignty and independence of our country in the form of sanctions," Tsulukiani said.

## Georgia: EU and UNDP support partnership to enable better waste management in Imereti

The EU and UNDP are supporting a partnership agreement signed between twelve municipalities of the Imereti region in Georgia and a number of waste and packaging organisations, aiming to develop better, more efficient and sustainable waste management systems.

implemented by UNDP Georgia, as part of the wider EU4Business programme, which promotes private sector development in Georgia. The partnership agreement was signed between the twelve municipalities and the World

Packaging Organisation (WPO), Georgian Packaging Waste Producers Union 'Georgia Plus', PMAG Packaging Cluster, and Georgian Waste Management Association (WMA Georgia). (euneighbourseast.eu)



"Developing a public-private partnership on waste collection, separation, and recycling is important for a circular economy as it allows resources to be collected and reused more efficiently," says a press release from UNDP Georgia.

The initiative was supported by the 'EU innovative action for private sector and competitiveness in Georgia' project, funded by the European Union and

The Robert Schuman European School is an institution where students share Georgian and European traditions, that contributes to the integration of Georgian youth into the European educational space. Consequently, the Day of European Union is especially celebrated in our school. This day allows us once again to think and understand European values and develop in their footsteps.



Thus, on May 5, with the support of the Botanical Garden, The Robert Schuman European School programme "Modzgvári" will hold an educational-cognitive project "We are part of Europe!" in the open festive space of the Botanical Garden.

During the project, information stands will be presented as a proof that European values and connection with them have always been relevant for Georgia. The stands will cover following topics:

- The roots of Europe are in ancient Georgia.
- Together with the European Union, we are stronger!
- Gender equality as a European value in Georgia.
- Georgian women in the parliament.
- In the footsteps of European cinema.
- Was the 1921 constitution European?
- Ilia's European ideas.
- Beginning of higher education, renaissance thinking, and democracy in medieval Georgia.
- Renaissance in medieval literature

The project will be decorated by European dances and songs performed by the students of our school. Additionally, Georgian and European cuisine will be presented. We invite you to an interesting, informative, diverse, and entertaining event.

### Weather

Wednesday, April 12

Day Light Rain High: 22°C

Night Showers Low: 10°C

Thursday, April 13

Day Mostly Cloudy High: 15°C

Night Mostly Cloudy Low: 8°C

published by

The Messenger

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

The Messenger welcomes your contributions. If you are interested in submitting an article or news item please contact. All contributions should be submitted by e-mail. The Messenger Georgia's English language daily is an independent newspaper, and,

therefore, the opinions expressed in some articles do not necessarily coincide with those of the newspaper. We take no responsibility for any claims made in advertisements. The Messenger preserves the style of a source written in English where possible.